

an effort started last year, when Congress passed a non-binding resolution urging government agencies to open those records.

President Clinton praised the resolution, saying it was "clearly in our public interest to learn any remaining secrets about the Holocaust." The bill would amend the Freedom of Information Act to suspend restrictions on disclosure of information for Nazi-related materials.

NEWS

in brief

PA to answer extradition requests

The Palestinians have agreed to respond next month to 26 extradition requests, although no suspect has been extradited since the Oslo Accords. The answers will be given when the joint Israeli-Palestinian legal committee meets, the Justice Ministry said last night.

This emerged from talks between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and his Palestinian counterpart, Freih Abu-Medien. The meeting was also attended by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein. The two sides agreed to set up two sub-committees to deal with civil legal matters and with questions relating to prisoners, ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said. *Basheva Tsar*

IAF rejects new technology parts for F-15I

The Israel Air Force has refused new technology parts for the F-15I fighter jet, because it cannot afford them, although defense executives say these parts could save the air force money and improve performance of the \$88 million plane.

Boeing vice president James Finnitt said Boeing is trying to establish an Israeli company to supply the cost-reducing components to the IAF.

The first of 25 F-15Is, in a \$2.5 billion contract awarded in 1994, will be displayed in a ceremony today attended by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and senior executives of Boeing, which merged last August with McDonnell Douglas, maker of the F-15. *Steve Rodan*

Vilnai says he has great respect for Palestinians

In an interview with Israel Radio, Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai, who said the Palestinians had "the brains of a pigeon," clarified his remarks made to high school students in Eilat on Monday. Vilnai said yesterday that he had referred to suicide bombers and that he had great respect for the Palestinian people and their leaders.

"It is impossible that three Gazans with the brain of a pigeon, a kindergarten education, idiots - and I know some of them - will strike us and we will back down," Vilnai was quoted as saying. "When a terrorist hears whining and arguments within a society it gives him the feeling of success," he said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

KITTY CASPER

Widow of the late South African Chief Rabbi passed away in Jerusalem on November 4

deeply mourned

H. Saenger

On behalf of the South African Jewish Community

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dearest

LEAH (Leika) GOODMAN

Beloved wife of Alan
Mother of Saranna, Naomi, Mali, Hila and David
Sister of Musha and Yudke,
Dearly loved grandmother
The funeral will take place today, Thursday, November 6, 1997
at 3 p.m. at the Sayon Cemetery.
Shiva at 26 Magal Street, Sayon.



The Jerusalem Foundation
deeply mourns the passing of

BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD

a dear friend of Jerusalem
and sends condolences to
Baroness Nadine de Rothschild and
his son, Benjamin de Rothschild.



The leadership and staff of
ISRAEL BONDS

mourn the death of

BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD

a long-time and generous supporter
of Israel's economic development.

His warmth, leadership and great contributions to Israel
and the world Jewish community will be sorely missed.
Our heartfelt condolences to his wife,
Baroness Nadine de Rothschild, and their son Benjamin.

Hussein loyalists victorious in Jordanian general election

AMMAN (AP) - Tribal leaders loyal to the monarchy defeated Moslem fundamentalists in Tuesday's parliamentary elections.

With the vote count complete, the tribal chiefs won 68 seats in the 80-member lower house of parliament. Independent fundamentalist candidates and their left allies won only 12, after a major Islamic party boycotted the vote.

All 17 women among the 524 candidates lost.

Among the victors was Mansour Seifeddine Murad, a former terrorist who was jailed in Greece for a 1969 hand grenade attack on the Athens office of El Al that killed a child. Murad was freed in 1970 in exchange for 55 hostages aboard a hijacked Olympic Airways plane.

The results of Tuesday's vote strengthened Hussein's rule and dealt a severe blow to the fundamentalists and leftists who oppose his pro-Western style and the peace treaty with Israel.

"I promise the people that I will

serve this country and its leadership," declared Abdullah Aqayleh, a leader of the Islamic Action Front, who was dismissed for ignoring his fundamentalist party's boycott and running in the election.

Aqayleh is also a tribal leader and like other tribal chiefs has deep loyalty to Hussein, who has given tribes senior government and army posts, free education and health services, and large tracts of lands to settle.

Tuesday's vote was for the lower

house, known formally as the Chamber of Deputies. The 40-member upper house is appointed by the king.

The parliament has more powers than most Arab legislatures. It adopts laws and can unseat governments, but the king has the power to veto its actions, dissolve it, and rule by decree.

Because of these limitations, the parliament is seen by voters more as a forum for voicing local grievances than a symbol of democracy.

"People are more preoccupied with bread-and-butter issues," said Alaa Tadrus, 47, a tire shop owner in Salt. "Leave politics on the side. I want to feed my kids. Why should I care otherwise?" Tadrus said, adding that he did not vote.

The fundamentalist Islamic Action Front and eight other leftist and pan-Arab nationalist parties said their boycott of the polls was a protest against the government's restrictions on public freedoms, its economic policies, and the peace treaty with Israel.

NEWSLINE

with Prof. Asher Susser

By DAVID RUDGE

Has the outcome of the Parliamentary elections in Jordan created any major changes?

It has not changed anything in terms of the stability of the regime. The results, however, do reflect a disenchantment that exists in significant sections of the population about a variety of issues.

Was the boycott the prime reason for the relatively low turnout?

It was certainly a contributing factor, but not the only one. The decreased turnout also reflects disaffection with the manner in which the parliament has conducted itself and the sense among Jordanians that it has not been very effective.

What were the main items of disaffection that were raised in the elections?

One point is a general disaffection with the economic situation which has improved on the macro level but has not trickled down to the man in the street. Unemployment is still high and rising prices are challenging the standard of living rather than raising it as one would expect.

Another is the peace process. There were those who believed that there would be a peace dividend from the accord with

Israel. This has not happened. The election of Prime Minister Netanyahu, the halting of the Palestinian track and the Mashaal affair have resulted in the peace process being criticized by a wider segment of the population than when the treaty was signed.

Is the criticism of the peace treaty with Israel high on the list?

The peace process was certainly a factor in the elections but I would not say that it was point number one.

Has the composition of the parliament changed as a result of the elections?

The opposition has lost about half of the power they had in the previous parliament.

Was the boycott of the elections by the Islamic fundamentalists solely a demonstration of dissatisfaction?

They may have feared that their popularity had declined and that this could be exposed in the elections. The number of people who believe in the Islamist solution today is not as high as it was in 1989. This may also be true in other countries.

Prof. Susser is a senior fellow at Tel Aviv University's Deyan Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Kahane Hai activist's retrial opens

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The trial of Kahane Hai activist David Axelrod was reopened yesterday in Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court eight months after he was acquitted of charges of praising violent acts.

In an interview on Channel 1 a day after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Axelrod said he was happy to hear that the wicked man had been murdered and that he and his friends had drunk a toast.

In the same interview, he said he was against violence, especially

violence in the Land of Israel.

Judge David Musalem, who presided over the hearing, ruled Axelrod's words did not encourage violence although they were unacceptable to society.

Musalem stressed that in a democratic society, there is freedom of speech.

The state appealed the ruling, and the case was bought before Judge Gabriela Levy yesterday. Levy postponed the hearing until January.

Axelrod told reporters that "many incited against Rabbi Meir Kahane, and when he was mur-

dered in the US charges were not brought against any of those people."

Axelrod's case should not be confused with that of David Axelrod (Srotsky), who also lives in Tapuah and was acquitted by Musalem of similar charges on Sunday.

His acquittal, for expressing joy at Rabin's murder in an interview with Israel Radio shortly after the assassination, aroused anger in both legal and political spheres. The State Attorney's Office said it is considering appealing the verdict.

Poll: We haven't learned from Rabin murder

Two years after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, nearly 41 percent of Israelis feel that neither the religious nor the secular have done sufficient soul-searching over the event or have learned practical lessons from it.

This is one of the findings from a poll commissioned by the Gesher association, which promotes understanding between the secular and religious. The survey found that 45% of secular respondents have this view, which is shared by 38% of the religious.

Asked who they thought did more soul-searching,

40.8% said no one; but 23.7% said the secular and 14.3% said the religious. Another 17.8% said both groups performed introspection equally following the murder and 3.4% had no opinion.

Asked who they thought should have done soul-searching, 60% responded that both the secular and religious should have done so equally; 20.3% said the religious should have done so more than the secular; 8% said only the religious; 6.3% said the secular more than the religious; 1.4% said only the secular; and 4% had no opinion. (Iim)

Most oppose Netanyahu's remark on Left's Jewishness

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A decisive majority of the public is opposed to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's recent assertion that the Left "has forgotten what it means to be a Jew."

According to a Peace Index poll, conducted on October 29, 68.5 percent of the public is opposed or strongly opposed to Netanyahu's statement.

Only 22.6% agreed or strongly agreed, and 8.8% had no clear opinion.

When the answers are divided according to Left-Right self-definition, 44.8% of the rightists agree with the statement, as against 5.7% of the leftists and 10.1% in the Center.

Other poll results showed that approximately 50% believe there

is no difference between Left and Right in concern for national security.

However, according to prevailing belief, the democratic character of the state is more important to the Left (45%) than to the Right (16.5%); while 28% said the two sides value democracy equally.

Opinion is also divided on how the peace process has influenced relations between secular and religious Jews.

Only a few believe it has led to rapprochement, while 44% believe it has had no influence and 42% believe it has increased the distance between the two groups.

Of those polled, 37.5% declared themselves rightists, 32% leftists, 20.4% in the Center, and the rest did not know.

Syria says peace possible within three months

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said yesterday that peace could be reached within three months if Israel returns the Golan Heights.

"If Israel also wants peace let it withdraw and this could lead to a peace agreement within three months," he said in an interview with Lebanon's private Future Television. "It is natural that if we are faced with aggression, that aggression will not be a picnic."

Meanwhile, President Hafez Assad yesterday welcomed a European role in pushing the Middle East peace process forward, his spokesman said.

The official Syrian news agency SANA quoted European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos as saying after talks with Foreign Minister Farouk Shara that Europe wanted to play an active role in the Middle East peace process.

Assad's spokesman, Joubran

Kourieh, said in a statement that Assad "welcomed an effective European role in the peace process that would push the process towards its goal in achieving just and comprehensive peace."

"Moratinos explained the European Union views over the current situation and the efforts it is exerting to break the deadlock and push the process forward," Kourieh added.

Moratinos said the EU wants to see "a resumption of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track as soon as possible. The EU is completely committed to work to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region. And I have assured [Shara] that the EU is trying hard to play an active role," SANA quoted Moratinos as saying.

It said Shara renewed Syria's demand to resume peace talks from where they left off with the previous Israeli Labor government.

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With deep sorrow, the family announces the loss of the beloved

EVER HAGGIAG

who died in Rome on November 4, 1997 (5 Heshvan 5758).

The funeral will be held in Jerusalem today, Thursday, November 6,
leaving from Ben-Gurion Airport at 5 p.m. for Har Hazeitim, Jerusalem.
(Hevra Kaddisha Le'adat Habavlim)

מסגרת תשלום

Swiss office would

Weizman to head

HEBREW PRESS

It's time with our

Gesher: A br

Swiss officials deny proposed foundation would exclude Holocaust survivors

By MARILYN HENRY

Swiss officials yesterday denied reports that a proposed \$5 billion "Solidarity Foundation" would exclude assistance to Holocaust survivors.

However, it was not clear how the foundation would be organized, who would benefit, and whether it would be approved.

Working groups, convened by the Swiss Finance Ministry to determine how the foundation would work, recommended last

week that priority be given to projects aimed at preventing violence, rather than aiding individuals.

"No group is excluded," a Swiss Foreign Ministry source said. She explained that the foundation was intended to finance long-term projects, while immediate individual needs could be met through a "humanitarian fund," started last winter.

The fund and foundation have been routinely confused in public discussion.

Jewish Agency chairman

Avraham Burg said yesterday he "would go to the ends of the earth not to permit such a fund to be established," if Holocaust survivors were excluded. "Holocaust survivors should be first on line, not last," he said.

Burg also appealed to Jewish leaders in the US to campaign against the setting up of such a foundation, him reported.

The Swiss government proposed the "Solidarity Foundation" last March, saying it would be financed with interest from gold

reserves.

The foundation, being established next year, would benefit Swiss and non-Swiss victims of genocide, disaster and human rights abuses, according to Swiss President Arnold Koller.

The idea was to aid Holocaust victims and other needy people.

Swiss Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger has said that the planned foundation would address general rather than individual cases. The foundation needs to be approved by referendum.

The other charity, the "humanitarian fund," made up of contributions from Swiss banks and industry, was established March 1 to help needy survivors, Jews and non-Jews alike.

Allocations were to be decided by a council with representatives from the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

The WIRO has said that a first stipend of some \$12 million would be handed out to needy Holocaust survivors in eastern and central Europe by the month's end.

NEWS

in brief

MKs approve long school-day for 100 localities

A long school-day will be operated in 100 localities throughout the country starting January 1, the Knesset Education Committee decided yesterday. Pupils in the selected locations will study 41 hours during a six-day week, ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Delli said, adding that "affirmative action" is to be given in the program to Arab schools.

The first 100 localities for the program include confrontation line settlements, towns in development zone A, those with unemployment above 10 percent, those under 10,000 population, and Project Renewal neighborhoods.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Rabin memorial website launched

A permanent, on-line memorial site for Yitzhak Rabin, which has an index of all other Internet sites on the assassinated premier, was launched this week by CoralNet. Visitors may leave a personal message and view slides showing important events in his life. The site, which appears in Hebrew and English, is at <http://www.coral.net/rabin>.

Judy Siegel

Canadian foreign minister to visit

Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and five other Middle Eastern states next week in an effort to drum up support for the international convention against the use of anti-personnel mines.

Due to arrive in Jerusalem on Tuesday, Axworthy also has the Middle East peace process at the top of his agenda. Axworthy's itinerary will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria en route to the World Economic Forum which opens in Qatar on November 16. He is also to stop in Ankara to urge Turkey's leaders to participate in the international land-mine conference in Ottawa next month.

Jay Bushinsky

Kashrut complaint line launched

The Chief Rabbinate has instituted a 24-hour telephone service to field complaints about kashrut fraud. According to the law, any business or food product advertising itself as kosher must have a certificate from the local rabbinate. Imported food products must have kashrut certification from the Chief Rabbinate.

According to Daniel Aviv, spokesman for the Chief Rabbinate, the most common cases of fraud are for a restaurant or eating place to advertise itself as kosher, even though it is not supervised by the local rabbinate, for a business to display an out-of-date kashrut certificate, or for a shop to sell non-kosher items advertised as kosher. To make a complaint, call (02) 5313187. A recorded message asks the caller to report the name and address of the offender and his own name and telephone number.

Haim Shapiro

Jerusalem-TA rail service suspended further

Train service between the capital and Tel Aviv has been further suspended following the discovery of defects in the line. Service was halted last week after a second derailment near Bar Giora. It is expected that repairs will be completed by mid-month.

Israel Railways Director-General Amos Uzani said that many years of neglect are responsible for the large number of derailments in recent weeks, and he intends to request a special budget of NIS 50 million from the Treasury to upgrade infrastructure, in particular on the Jerusalem and Beersheba lines.

Sybil Ehrlich

Police seize unauthorized reptiles

Police confiscated 35 reptiles from the home of a tour guide in Kiryat Arba on Tuesday. The reptiles were handed over to Nature Authority officials. Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said police, acting on a tip, discovered poisonous snakes, turtles, other reptiles, and stuffed animals in the house. Sivan said the suspect had violated the Reptiles Law, which requires authorized permits to hold them at home.

Margot Dudkevitch

Weizman, chief rabbis: It's time to heal religious-secular rift

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman and the two chief rabbis yesterday issued appeals on the second anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination for greater understanding between religious and secular Jews.

"There are a great deal of differences of opinions between the religious and the secular and we should all take this memorial week as a time for soul-searching," Weizman said. "One of the most important ways to calm down the situation is for secular and religious Jews to reach out to each other."

Weizman spoke during a swearing-in ceremony for five new religious court judges at Beit Hanassi.

"It is no secret that the nation is divided in two. There is a deep schism, there is hatred. Particularly this week, we have heard far too much about deepening chasms and far too little about tolerance and bridging differences," Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, said.

Lau discussed the historic divisions among Jews.

"Even in the time of Moses, it was necessary to appoint judges in order to keep the peace," he noted.

"Moses appointed 78,600 judges for a population of 600,000... There seems to be some flaw in our personalities which leads to confrontation and we must combat this... We must seek and love peace and love other human beings."

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron described the slaying of Rabin "by someone who believed he was acting out of ide-



President Ezer Weizman shakes hands with one of the religious court judges sworn in yesterday at Beit Hanassi. (Efraim Kibishok)

ology" as "an unequalled desecration of God's name."

"Everything possible must be done in order to correct this," he said.

"Thou shalt not kill is a com-

mandment and it is our duty to see it is upheld. We must extinguish hatred by showing human kindness."

Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer added: "No-

one is permitted to kill in the name of religion. It must be absolutely clear that it is not possible to try to change the path of history by killing a prime minister."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Conspiracy theory

Finance Minister Yaskov Neeman's appeal to the prime minister to investigate the suspicions of General Security Service involvement in the Rabin assassination raised in a *Haaretz* article provoked media tumult.

"There is nothing that the politicians won't invent, including sick, groundless conspiracy theories, in order to lay the blame on the other side," writes *Yediot Aharonot's* Nahum Barnea.

Ma'ariv's Ron Miberg warns of a never-ending debate around the false conspiracy issue: "If we do not get the whole story [from Yigal Amir], we will be destined to fluctuate until the end of time between the truth as we know it and the demonic and imaginary versions of those who attempt to draw political and demagogic gain."

Miberg adds in an article with Amnon Dankner that from a clever attorney like Neeman, "we would not have expected a political novice's slip."

"Deaths and assassinations that are difficult to absorb usually produce false charges," states *Haaretz's* Hanna Kim, adding that conspiracy is often the only way to deal with the guilt of the assassination and the problems that the assassin had attempted to

resolve through his act.

Axelrod verdict

David Axelrod's acquittal by a Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court judge on charges of praising the Rabin assassination, aroused commentators' dismay.

Prof. Ruth Gabizon in *Yediot* states that although the judge's verdict was not unfounded, it is infuriating.

"[Judge] Muallem's verdict... brings back the frustration and embarrassment regarding the limits of the country's courts in facing the terrible rupture in the nation."

Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Segal claims that the verdict is puzzling, as Axelrod's statement "the traitor was terminated, clearly violates the prohibition of publicizing praise of violence."

He adds that the acquittal was given in the worst possible timing, coming as it did on the second anniversary of Rabin's death.

Sharon's defeat

The dismissal of the libel suit brought by Ariel Sharon against *Ha'aretz* and journalist Uzi Ben-Zion was also a focus of comment.

"Sharon should have known that libel charges are either presented by a total fool or by a total saint," claims *Yediot's* Mordechai Gilat, who said that Sharon is neither.

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid asserts that if the Supreme Court does not change the verdict, "it is likely that Sharon's political career will be over."

Bina Barzel, in *Yediot*, claims that losing the trial will not be a political obstacle for Sharon. "Despite the fact that Sharon has no 'camp' in the Likud, he enjoys wide support... that only strengthens each time he is attacked."

Saddam's provocation

"[Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein is moving one step forward and two steps back in the escalation of the conflict," writes *Ma'ariv's* Oded Granot, referring to the decision that a UN delegation will mediate between the Americans and the Iraqis, after the latter refused to accept the American inspectors.

"On the one hand, he is waiting for the delegation's visit, and on the other, he doubles the provocative acts," referring to Saddam's latest attempt to stop the flights of intelligence and inspection.

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WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK

Maccabiah bridge collapse: 'Decision on charges by end of month'

By ESTHER HECHT

A decision will be made by the end of this month on whether to prosecute anyone involved in the bridge collapse at last July's Maccabiah Games, State Attorney Edna Arbel said yesterday.

The Justice Ministry is relating with the utmost seriousness to the disaster, in which four athletes were killed and 62 injured, Arbel said in a meeting with Mark Leibler, president of UJA/Keren Hayesod in Australia. Following completion of the police investigation and testimony by expert witnesses, the criminal investigation is proceeding in the Tel Aviv district attorney's office, Arbel added.

The meeting followed complaints by the families of the victims that insurance claims are being held up by the delay in prosecuting. This week, they reportedly sent a sharply worded letter to Australian Sports Minister Andrew Thompson demanding that Israel be barred from the Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Sydney in the year 2000 if those responsible for the tragedy are not held accountable.

However, Ron Weiser, president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, denied that an organized group within the Australian Jewish community has approached Thompson regarding a boycott of the Israeli athletes for the Olympics. "It is absolute rubbish to state or

infer that this community is considering such a boycott."

The families also complained that funds earmarked by the Prime Minister's Office to provide loans for initial financial assistance are apparently stuck in red tape.

The loan funds are now available, and payment will be made immediately upon receipt of a list of applicants from Maccabi Australia, said Miriam Rubinstein, director of the civil department in the State Attorney's Office, who attended the meeting initiated by Leibler.

The handling of the tragedy has caused cracks in the Australian Jewish community, and in its relations with Israel, Leibler said. "I'm convinced Edna Arbel understands this."

Leibler attributed the tension and distress in the Australian community to the manner in which Israel handled the aftermath of the disaster. "It's not so much the substance of how this has been handled, but miscommunication and insensitivity," he said.

There have been repeated assurances from the Prime Minister's Office that the loans were being expedited, but deadlines passed and nothing happened, he said.

He had also been brushed off by someone in the Tel Aviv district attorney's office who, he said, had told him, "We have lots of priorities. We'll come back to you when we can."

Three indicted in Aslan hit

Three men were indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for the attempted murder of underworld figure Meir Aslan on September 10.

Nahman Cohen, 37, Ben Sotfi, 22, and Sharon Cain, 25, all of Tel Aviv, were charged with criminal conspiracy and attempted murder. Cohen allegedly commissioned the hit. Sotfi and Cain are charged with hiring the alleged hitmen - Sharon Mokeiten and his relative, a minor, both of whom have already been indicted - providing them with weapons and planning the operation.

Mokeiten and the minor were arrested in the doorway of Aslan's Tel Aviv restaurant. They were both armed, and wearing hats, gloves, and false eyeglasses. (Jtm)



Arab students protest

Members of the Hebrew University's Arab Students Union protest yesterday on the Mt. Scopus campus over the lack of housing for Arab students, particularly first-year students. The Hebrew signs read: 'Equality is a right, not a favor' and 'They don't even give us caravans.' The Arabic sign at left reads: 'There's a limit to patience.'

Indian community furious at rabbi's refusal to okay marriages

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Members of the Indian community are furious at a sweeping decision by Petah Tikva Chief Rabbi Shimon Solomon to refuse to approve the marriages of young people of Indian descent.

The issue came to the fore after a young couple was sent a letter early this week informing them that their application for marriage was refused on the grounds that the prospective bride, Orly Solomon, came from an Indian family.

Solomon is scheduled to wed next Thursday, and had submitted

her documents for approval back in December.

But last month, Solomon issued a halachic decision questioning the Judaism of the more than 100,000 "B'nai Israel" Jews who immigrated from India in the 1950s and '60s.

Only Solomon was informed that, without undergoing a ritual immersion as a conversion ceremony, she would not be permitted to marry under Petah Tikva auspices.

Other members of the Indian community attempting to register in Petah Tikva have received the same notice.

"I can't believe this is happen-

ing," Solomon said yesterday. "How can I be Jewish everywhere else in Israel, and not in Petah Tikva?"

On Tuesday, in an effort to bypass the refusal of the Petah Tikva rabbinate, the couple decided to attempt to register to marry in Rosh Ha'ayin. But the rabbi refused to register them without a written referral from the Petah Tikva rabbi.

In Rosh Ha'ayin, she reported, she was told that "we don't accept the goyim of Petah Tikva," and asked "what's the big deal about undergoing a conversion?"

Solomon flatly refuses to con-

sider that option. "To get married under the auspices of our own municipality, where we grew up and paid taxes, is our right."

"We are Israeli citizens, we did our army service, we are Jews. It has hurt my parents deeply that their Judaism has been called into question."

The Petah Tikva rabbinate refused to comment.

David Naveh, an activist in the Indian community, called Solomon's policy "an outrage" and that if he does not reconsider his decision, demonstrations and other forms of protest will follow.

No hospital sanctions today

By JUDY SEGEL

There will be no sanctions by the Israel Medical Association today, but they are due to resume next week unless the Treasury carries out its signed commitment to finance 360 additional doctors' job slots to alleviate overwork by hospital physicians.

In addition, the physicians are continuing their new policy of discharging patients only when fully recovered, instead of sending them home prematurely. This has had the effect of increasing crowding in the wards, especially internal medicine departments, as an attempt to put pressure on the Treasury. Occupancy has already reached 150 percent in the internal medicine departments of Assaf Harofe, Kaplan, Soroka, and Wolfson hospitals, with many patients lying in the corridors.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar this week attacked Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman for "lack of credibility and hurting lower socio-economic groups." He was particularly critical of Neeman's statement that the National Health Insurance Law that went into effect in 1994 is "unreasonable" and that the government cannot cover the NIS 1.3 billion deficit produced by the "current version" of the law.

Blachar said that Neeman, who was "never elected," is misleading elected officials and members of the government. "When the public wakes up to the fact that the health system has been destroyed, the finance minister and his underlings may not be in their jobs... The structural changes that Neeman wants to introduce through the back door prove that he wants to cancel the law, reduce public funding of health care, and replace it with more citizens' payments."

As to the Treasury's claims about job slots, Blachar said the ministry "approved the job slots, but not the financing; the hospitals would have to pay for it if they wanted more doctors." "When Neeman returns to his fancy lawyer's office and continues to serve the top 1,000th socio-economic percentile of the population, the doctors will continue to treat patients, even in the hospitals' parking lots [if there is no room elsewhere]," he said.

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(Ruthie)

**By MARYN HENRY
and news agencies**

**"You cannot allow
Republicans to get the advantage**

In his victory speech, Giuliani acknowledged the ethnic divi-

Mark Green retained his job as New York public advocate, beating the Orthodox Republican contender Jules Polonetsky by a wide margin. City Comptroller Alan Hevesi also was re-elected. Elsewhere, Minneapolis and Pittsburgh rejected bids for funds for sports stadiums; Washington state junked tighter



gun restrictions, workplace protections for gays, and legalized marijuana for medicinal use; and Cincinnati's elephants may have to move after voters sniffed at zoo spending.

The most-watched contest was in Oregon, where by a 60-40 margin voters have retained the right to physician-assisted suicide. Opponents of the 1994 law, the nation's first allowing doc-

tors to help terminally ill patients take their lives, have vowed to turn to the courts to block the measure.

By DMITRY CHUBASHENKO

Alexandru Gorgan, military adviser to former Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, said that in 1994 four planes had been sold to Yemen.

Cohen told a Pentagon news briefing on Tuesday that the United States had "credible information that a number of rogue states, including Iran, are attempt-

He said the United States would re-assemble the MiGs and test them for capability, but that the main purpose in obtaining them was to keep them away from states which might use them to

The MiG-29 C variant can carry a weapons payload of up to 3,000 kilograms - allowing the planes to launch air-to-ground missiles which could, conceivably, be armed with nuclear warheads.

By NICOLÁS MARMÍE

Papon, who was a police supervisor in the Gironde region during the war, had described himself during Tuesday's court session as

Speaking of the world Baruch described in his testimony, Papon went on to say: "I recognized, apart from the slight difference, the reality I experienced. I recognized in large part, the difficulties of administrative life during the occupation."

Papon also expressed apprecia-

But Chirac's position, welcomed by France's Jewish community, has come under fire from Gaullists testifying at Papon's trial, prompting several prominent Gaullist leaders to reject it outright.

By CHRISTIAN CURTENELLE

Violence erupted early yesterday when a dozen masked men charged a strikers' roadblock near Marseille, beating three

While France's trading partners were concerned with gaining unimpeded access to markets through France, Paris

Spanish officials say some 8,000 Spanish trucks have been delayed, trapped by roadblocks or forced to take alternative routes. Spanish farmers have threatened a boycott of French goods if the strike continues.

"We want to negotiate and reach a durable solution. We are optimistic," said Jean-Paul Deneuville of the FNTR, the

Although details of the Selnas method have not been published in any medical journal, tests in France

"It's almost too good to be true," Hogewind said if Schoun's program works it will reduce the number of selective abortions and bring

Iran has yet to give its view on a proposal by Saudi Arabia to increase OPEC's output ceiling when ministers meet in Jakarta on

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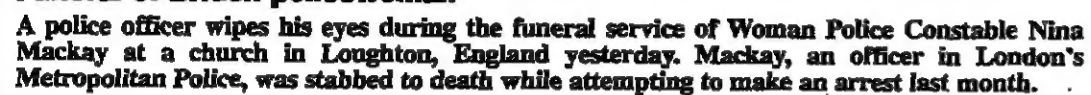
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The former St. Petersburg mayor is now a political has-been, a suspected criminal and a physical wreck, **Vanora Bennett** reports

The money used to buy new housing for his former neighbors came from a real-estate company seeking concessions from the city, according to the daily *Examiner*. The same company

Whatever the verdict — if Sobchak's health improves enough so he can face trial — "democrat" has become a dirty word in St. Petersburg these days. The people of

There is an even more literary feel about the man running the commission investigating the Sobchak's

[illegible]

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Whether the virgin actually appeared or was a myth intended to help Indians accept a new religion, Catholic priests today reap what their predecessors sowed. (Reuters)

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A good show

The best that can be said about Tuesday's parliamentary elections in Jordan is that they were a good show and a nice try. Despite the royal house's efforts to portray the results in as good a light as possible, the truth is that Jordan is still far from being a full democracy. It is nevertheless still the closest to democracy of any Arab nation, and as such deserves as much encouragement in that direction as it can get from Israel and the West.

The spread of democracy is important for world peace and prosperity for a number of reasons. Only democracies can ensure the proper enforcement of human and civil rights and prevent the human suffering so prevalent in dictatorial regimes. The statement that in all of human history no war has ever been initiated between two fully democratic countries has been repeated so often it is in danger of becoming a platitude—but that makes it no less true or significant. As for economic well-being, one of the lessons that emerged from the recent financial meltdown in Southeast Asia has been that fully integrating into the riches of the emerging global economy requires nations to adopt honest, trustworthy, and accountable governments.

The above might seem so close to motherhood and apple pie that it needs no repeating, but when it comes to neighboring Arab states there is a not-insignificant strain of opinion in Israel which holds that it might be preferable for some of those countries to delay full democratization. According to this view, the authoritarian rule of strong men in the Palestinian Authority and such places as Jordan is necessary to strangle terrorism and prevent Islamic radicalism from sweeping into power. The flaw in this line of reasoning is that it is precisely authoritarian regimes which are the most militaristic and given too easily to the changing whims of rulers. History teaches that the best way to fight radicalism is to form stable democracies in which the voices of the masses who wish to live their lives peacefully in civil societies can be heard.

No one has any real illusions about the nature of democracy in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan. King Hussein is clearly the decision-maker. It is he and not parliament who determines who will occupy the position of prime minister. Indeed, it sometimes appears as if the monarch has taken on the role of the coach of a sports team, having a pool of prime ministers in reserve. Whenever the sitting premier appears to be losing favor with the King, a replacement begins warming up on the sidelines, getting ready to be called into play. The role of the parliament in such a system is to be a forum for discussion, not the source of political power.

Nevertheless, since 1989 Jordan has taken steps towards the adoption of democracy, and at least managed to attain a status that might be described as "democracy-friendly." In contrast to sometimes brutally authoritarian neighbors such as Syria, Iraq, and even the PA, the Hashemite kingdom is orderly and well run, and its citizens enjoy freedoms unknown in most other Arab states. The press has been guaranteed freedoms. The electoral system in particular has developed in a positive manner, and elections enable political parties and a rudimentary opposition to have some say in parliament.

It was therefore disturbing to see the recent erosion in this progress. Press restrictions were imposed last May by royal decree, bypassing parliament, and 13 weekly newspapers were subsequently closed. The Islamic Action Front decided to boycott the elections, despite the fact that Islamic participation in the political process in Jordan has always been considered a major reason no serious armed Islamic revolutionary force has ever developed in the kingdom. The balloting itself was accompanied by reports of fraud and chaos, with 120,000 names removed from the voting rolls only last week, when duplications and even the registry of deceased persons was discovered.

Nor were the results particularly encouraging. The low voter turnout—44 percent—reflects not only the Islamic boycott but a dangerous apathy among a public that does not perceive the composition of the parliament as having any real impact on their lives. Most of the victors were tribal notables. Only five candidates who ran on official party tickets won seats in the 80-member lower house, and the much-touted National Constitutional Party miserably lost its bid to become Jordan's major party.

This is significant, in that parliaments filled with members of parties representing ideologies, as opposed to tribal loyalties, are important in forming democracies. No woman managed to win a seat—a regression from the last election. The lack of even a perceived opposition has disturbed even the royal house, which is eager to keep up the appearance of democracy.

None of this means that Israeli and Western support for King Hussein and Jordan need be curtailed. On the contrary, efforts must be made to prevent further deterioration of democracy. As the only Arab country to even advance this far along the road to democracy, Jordan should be applauded and further encouraged to view the bumps in this road as "part of growing up." In the words of Crown Prince Hassan. An evolving constitutional monarchy is much preferable to most other realistic alternatives.



ILLUSTRATION BY G. G.

Conduct unbecoming

NEAL M. SHER

We have been going through a particularly rocky period for Israel and her supporters. The peace process has been teetering on the brink of collapse; relations with the US have been strained; the booted assassination attempt in Amman has left a lot of people shaking their heads in astonishment, not to mention the damage done to relations with Jordan and Canada. If that wasn't enough, along comes S., the 17-year-old accused murderer from suburban Washington, DC, who fled to Israel under the foolishly mistaken notion that he would either be welcomed or protected.

While the case has understandably provoked emotional reactions and has attracted considerable attention, it should be nothing more than a passing blip on the radar screen, having no serious long-range ramifications.

I wish that were true. Unfortunately the case has unleashed ferocious Congressional attacks and threats against Israel which have unmasked deep problems with the current state of US-Israel relations on Capitol Hill. It also poses a critical challenge for the pro-Israel community.

It is critical to understand that from the beginning Israel and the US have been in complete agreement as to the desired outcome: both want S. to stand trial in Maryland, where the murder was committed.

Nevertheless, for several weeks before Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein ruled S. could be extradited, a nasty and very public anti-Israel campaign was launched in Washington demanding S.'s immediate turnover. To hell with the law, it was said: Israel gets billions from the US, and if it knows what's good for it, S. had better be on the next plane to the States.

Such ravings could be expected from the usual Israel-bashers, such as Patrick Buchanan and Robert

Novak. But when they emanate from the halls of Congress, and from the chairmen of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and its Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations no less, we'd better take notice. That's serious stuff.

Robert Livingston (R-Louisiana) and Sonny Callahan (R-Alabama) hold those respective positions; they are central to all issues surrounding foreign aid and cannot be taken lightly. What they have to say about Israel reverberates throughout the corridors of power as well as in the media. And what they'd been saying was being downright ugly.

Most troublesome was how quickly and loudly the two played the foreign aid card. To say the least, Callahan has never been a champion of foreign aid. And he has made no secret of his eagerness to slash Israel's account. He's always looking for any excuse to wield the ax.

Nor has he been shy about criticizing pro-Israel lobbying. In 1995, as head of AIPAC, I testified before his subcommittee. I was asked a rather pointed question: by the chairman, to which I'm sure he didn't expect an answer: Did I share his view that Israel received its aid only because the Jews make political contributions? Subtlety is not Mr. Callahan's strong suit.

The attacks by Livingston are perhaps even more disturbing, because he should know better. As a former federal prosecutor Livingston knows about due process of law.

TRUE enough, the full \$3 billion in aid has been approved and the immediate crisis has passed. But it would be a mistake to think all is well. The Livingston-Callahan campaign exposed the soft underbelly of the US-Israel relationship in this Congress. While the large number of votes in favor of foreign aid might suggest that the support is a

mile wide, the knee-jerk reaction of key Congressional leaders to pull the trigger demonstrates that when push comes to shove that support is only an inch deep. That should make any supporter of Israel feel terribly uneasy.

The potential damage from the Livingston-Callahan offensive (in both senses of the word) must not be swept under the rug. It is essential that AIPAC meet these bully tactics head-on, using its full arsenal.

Earlier this summer, AIPAC publicly took on the solidly pro-Israel Clinton administration when it suspected that it was about to exert too much pressure on Mr. Netanyahu. (In fact, it was not at all clear that that was about to happen.) Many eyebrows in the Jewish community were raised by those who wondered about the motives of an organization headed by a former professional Republican partisan, who is backed up by a number of the group's most influential lay leaders who are also rock-ribbed GOP loyalists. There were many rumblings that the real objective was to embarrass the Democratic White House by fomenting partisan friction with Congress.

AIPAC has just urged the United States Supreme Court—in a case which could dramatically affect the way it does business—to rule that it is a true membership organization. The thousands of members upon whom AIPAC is relying to avoid a legal disaster have every right to expect that the very real threats by Livingston and Callahan are thoroughly and publicly refuted, with at least the same vigor it had used to challenge the administration over what was little more than rumored pressure.

Credibility can be earned only through principled consistency.

The writer, a lawyer, is the former Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Blame the victim

LARRY DERFNER

It's ironic, but not surprising, in the heated dispute between the Left and Right over who is the real inciter, an event that happened only a week ago has been forgotten: The Jerusalem office of a certain political movement was torched. Before the arson, the organization received many death threats.

Which sort of organization was it? One belonging to the Right? No, it was one belonging to the Left—Dor Shalom, led by Yitzhak Rabin's son, Yuval.

That this event could be so quickly passed over when it is so obviously relevant to the issue of the day, and such an obvious, not to mention timely, echo of the Rabin assassination, only shows how matter-of-fact violence against the Left has become in this country.

What would the reaction have been if a right-wing group had been threatened repeatedly and had its office burned? No one can say, because it doesn't happen—except to the home of Yigal Amir's family, which is the radical exception that proves the rule. Otherwise, Jew-against-Jew violence in Israel is a one-way street, going from Right to Left. It's been like this for decades. The Rabin assassination was the worst incident, but was bracketed by continual, if lesser, crimes before and after. One crime, actually, was just as bad.

The Right often points to the peace demonstrators' chants of "murderer" against Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon during the Lebanon War. True, leftists also say miserable things. But who got killed in the end? A right-winger? No, Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig.

The commonness and exclusivity of right-wing violence against the Left should give some hint of where the incitement lies, where

The more the Left is victimized, the more it is hated and blamed for incitement and sowing divisiveness

the danger is, and who above all should be watching their mouths.

It also raises the question: Why? Why are rightists always the victimizers and leftists always the victims?

Because only the Right has a mob in its ranks. There's nothing all that unusual about it. Nationalist movements the world over, especially those with a strong religious side like the Israeli Right, tend to attract an element of people with a penchant for committing violence against those who disagree too strongly with their beliefs.

The Israeli Left, by contrast, is a moderate movement—the moderate movement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. It alone sees right and wrong on both sides. It seeks a compromise between Israeli and Palestinian nationalism. The Left has plenty of flaws, but political violence, which grows out of ideological extremism, is foreign to its nature.

Yet as long as it continues to decry the violence on the Right, and to blame many right-wing leaders, including Binyamin Netanyahu, for playing to the mob, it will continue to attract violence. The cycle goes like this: In Israel's political dispute, goons of the Right dependably attack leftist targets. The Left accuses the Right of harboring these thugs, of throwing raw meat to them, or of playing peekaboo with them, or at the very least of failing to put them down.

The Right gets mad. It accuses the Left of incitement, of slander, of blood libel. The Left accuses back in kind. The atmosphere heats up, and the mob is ready for action. One or more of them decide to be heroes, and someone on the Left gets hurt.

Which brings more accusations against the Right, more counter-charges against the Left, more mob fury, and more left-wing victims.

The most chilling thing about all this is that the more the Left is victimized, the more it is hated and blamed for incitement and sowing divisiveness.

Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni, who have been assaulted on occasion and threatened with death hundreds of times, may be more despondent now than ever.

Two years after the Rabin assassination and a week after the arson, I sense that the Israeli public has about had its fill of Dor Shalom. I think Netanyahu and the Right are beginning to emerge on top in the dispute over incitement, and the Left is coming out as the guilty party. It's ironic, but no longer surprising.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEART OF DEMOCRACY

Sir, — Mark Heller's incisive article "Disappearing common values" (October 31) hit the nail on the head.

One wonders why the Israeli politicians and public at large cannot see that denial of individual rights and freedoms in society and the dictation of policy by a minority group strikes at the very heart of democracy.

How can we expect the US or any other Western country to understand us if we don't understand ourselves?

Netanya.

ZELDA HARRIS

HUMOROUS AND ENTERTAINING

Sir, — I wanted to say that Sam Orbaum's column "A roll in bed" (October 13) (WHAT! Now he's writing about condoms!), was one of the funniest articles he's written. I often wondered where he gets his ideas for all the columns he has to write. I finally figured it out. He sees (and hears) the same things as everyone else, but he has the talent to put them into humorous and entertaining (and sometimes serious) words.

ELAINE KALLET

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On November 6, 1947, The Palestine Post reported from London that the House of Commons was told that 37 ships carrying "illegal" immigrants to Palestine had been apprehended in the past two years.

At Lake Success the Palestine Partition Implementation Working Committee, consisting of the US, Russia, Canada and Guatemala continued its deliberations, the US and Soviet delegates sitting together and trying

to compromise on their differences. In Jerusalem the Mandatory Government announced that the special benzine tax imposed on July 1 to pay for damage done by explosions at the Haifa oil installations would continue until the sum of 400,000 Palestine pounds was accumulated.

25 years ago: On November 6, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the Israeli Cabinet round-

FEAR OF CHANGE

system promotes fear, fear of the unknown, of what is going to be. Therefore, change is vehemently rejected.

Only a climate of tolerance, of love and let live, of acceptance of the common Jewish fate throughout history and facing the fact that there exists a modern Israel may help us overcome the present crisis.

LILLO and GUSTI DREIFUSS

Haifa.

NOISE POLLUTION

The solution: enact a law/statute limiting the loudness of car horns and requiring each car owner to adjust the loudness to the prescribed limit. If at the annual safety check, the horn is not correctly adjusted, then the relevant authority performs the adjustment at a very considerable cost to the vehicle owner.

KEITH SOLOMON

Petah Tikvah.

GAP-FILLER

marriage and assimilation, but in Israel, where they can present themselves as a gap-filler between the Orthodox and the secular.

MILTON J. KRAMER

Arad.

Justice in Bordeaux

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

did not know." Oh, really, Monsieur Papon? We have testimony of how young children, screaming with fear, were carried by French police into Auschwitz-bound trains. Very few survived.

Is there a single Israeli, Left or Right, religious or secular, who does not lament French officialdom for moving heaven and earth for so long

Before Israelis cast a stone at the snail's pace of justice in France, let us salute the judiciary there

to conceal the sordid and criminal role of the likes of Papon? We doubt it.

Yet before we climb on our moral high horse and point an accusing finger at France, let us recall some unsavory skeletons of duplicity which bring little credit to the Jewish state.

We speak of documents gathering dust in the archives at Mossad headquarters which, like those in Bordeaux, were marked "top secret." One in particular concerns the cold-blooded slaying in March 1973 in Khartoum of two American diplomats, outgoing Ambassador George Curtis Moore and Cleo Noel Jr., who was to replace him in Sudan.

Together with a Belgian diplomat, they were among other guests at a Saudi Arabian embassy party who were kidnapped by a unit of Yasser Arafat's terrorists. When the PLO demand to exchange them for Palestinian prisoners was rejected, a

direct order was issued by Arafat from Beirut to shoot them.

The voice of Arafat issuing the murder command was recorded by the Mossad and immediately passed on to Washington. Now, it is US policy to pursue anyone who killed one of its citizens and to bring them to justice, no longer how long it takes.

One can understand the deep embarrassment of President Clinton when Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres insisted on shaking hands with Arafat on the lawn of the White House at the signing ceremony of the hopelessly flawed Oslo Accords. And the inexplicable granting of the Nobel Peace Prize to a murderer of innocent civilians.

To remedy this shameful distortion of natural justice, Rafi Eitan demanded some three years ago that the Israeli government bring Arafat to trial as a war criminal. As a former top Mossad commander and terrorism adviser to Israeli prime ministers, he knows of other documents snatched away which prove again and again the direct guilt of Arafat in slaying men, women and children in Israel as well as Jews living abroad.

To cite but one example, it was Arafat's direct command that resulted in the deaths of passengers on the coastal road at Herzliya in the winter of 1978, after their bus was hijacked. It took a long time for the Bordeaux documents detailing murder most foul to be acted upon. Before Israelis cast a stone at the snail's pace of justice in France, let us salute the judiciary there. For as we witness, the accused eventually faces his judges.

How long will it be before another killer of Jews, Yasser Arafat, is clapped into irons and also made to answer for the deaths of Jewish men, women and children?

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

مركز القدس

Out of the shade and into the light

By Laura Lippman

Like T.S. Eliot's *Madame Sosostris*, Doris Lessing has a cold. Unlike *Madame Sosostris*, though, this does not imply her powers are diminished. Far from it. Now 78, she is razor-sharp, her mind sorting through the questions asked of her like a woman thumping melons in a grocery store. Some apparently are a bit mushy to her taste, others not quite ripe.

Small in stature, Lessing is a towering figure in 20th century letters — the author of a book, *The Golden Notebook*, that has been known as a classic almost since it appeared 35 years ago. "Generally known as my best novel," she writes in *Walking in the Shade* (HarperCollins, \$27.50), the just-published second volume of her memoirs. "Perhaps it is, but I have my own ideas." Does she ever. Lessing's mind virtually teems with ideas, and she has been known to intimidate veteran interviewers. They call her publicist in advance, nervous and deferential, perhaps because they have read in *Shade* her assessment of another journalist's efforts: "Shallow and superficial." What prompted that criticism?

"She [the reporter] complained my heels were too high. I thought, 'What was this doing in an article?' They were these shoes, do you consider them too high?" The heel is a stacked one, perhaps two inches. "Well, then," she sniffs. "OK, so she dislikes the process of promoting books and even disdains the people who buy books because of the requisite newspaper profiles. Then surely this limited tour of New York, Boston and Chicago must be pure torture for her. Wrong again."

"Some of my best friends are journalists," she demurs. And she is polite in conversation, dryly humorous, even kind. "Doddie is a good little babe," she says of herself in her first memoir, *Under My Skin*, about her childhood in Southern Rhodesia.

It's a motif repeated in *Walking in the Shade*, when Lessing remembers dutifully writing a note of gratitude to Somerset Maugham when she won a literary prize named for him. The award helped her out at a time when her finances were precarious.

"I got a grudging letter back," she writes, "saying that, first, he had nothing to do with the choosing of the prize winners and, two, he had never read anything I had written. ... This letter from Maugham hurt. It was meant to. But I owed him a roof over my head."

"I could have easily entitled this book 'A Roof Over My Head,'" she muses. The phrase is a constant refrain in *Walking in the Shade*, an account of Lessing's early years in London, from 1949 to 1962.

Instead, she once again turned to popular music for her inspiration. (*Under My Skin* came from Cole Porter, while *Walking in the Shade* recasts a line from "The Sunny Side of the Street" — "I used to walk in the shade. ...")



Doris Lessing

(Sally Soames)

The book and her memories are divided among her several addresses. And for many of these years, she eschewed the sunny side.

"I did at one point see that I was choosing unhappiness rather than happiness and I decided to stop that," she says. "*Walking in the Shade* describes the preference for choosing — you know, I had two men, both of whom were extremely damaged men, one by war and one socially." A pause. "Well, I needn't have done that." But this second volume of her memoirs is about so much more than Lessing's romances. There are her longtime ties to the Communist Party, which she came to disavow; the transformation of post-World War II London; life as a single parent; and, always, her work. For although Lessing is best known for *The Golden Notebook*, whose publication came toward the end of *Walking in the Shade*, she has produced a vast body of work, which includes novels, science fiction, short stories, operas and nonfiction. "The statesmanlike length of [her memoir] is probably just-

tified by the extraordinary variety of her achievements, her exceptional memory and her facility as a writer," Frank Kermode wrote in *The New York Times Book Review*. However, he also found "passages where you feel she is just typing on to complete a stint, and perhaps not looking it over later." *Shade* begins in 1949, when Lessing arrived in London with little more than her son, Peter, and a manuscript, *The Grass is Singing*. Twice divorced, she had left the two children from her first marriage behind in Africa. Some reviewers were surprised at how little attention she paid to this episode in *Under My Skin*, but she shrugs it off again in *Walking in the Shade* when she writes about the difficult end of a love affair.

"It seemed to me obvious that I was bound to be unhappy, and any intelligent reader would understand that without ritual beatings of the breast," she writes. "... There is no one who hasn't suffered over love at some time, and so it should be enough to say that being thrown over by this man was bad for me. It was the worst." Conversely, she doesn't dwell on the details of her domestic routine — up at 5 every morning with Peter, a "non-sleeper" — because she says only a single mother can understand what she was going through. "You know, they didn't even have the word [single mother] then," she says, amused as always by the vicissitudes of language.

Literary criticism as practiced by the Communist Party prepared her for political correctness; she once wrote an essay in which she said it didn't seem coincidental that PC thinking came into vogue after communism collapsed. *The Golden Notebook* is often described as a feminist classic, but Lessing washed her hands of all "isms" long ago.

"I am mortally afraid of them," she says. "I have lived through 'isms' by the dozens, some of them lethal." She settles now instead for reduced expectations — efficient, non-corrupt governments — which still seem dauntingly high when matched against reality.

Her days in London sound full. Up at 6:30, she exercises and does "all the things I have to do" before she settles in to write at 8.

In the afternoons, she takes long walks and drops in at neighborhood cafes (the quality of coffee in London is an ongoing preoccupation in *Shade*). Theater remains a passion, and she even has a few television shows of which she approves. Despite her assertion that TV is "the road in the kitchen," and, always, there are books to be read. "Reproachful piles of reading," is how she describes it. As for her own writing, she says the next book will be an old-fashioned adventure.

There will not be, she says emphatically, a third volume of memoirs.

"Impossible," she decrees, having changed names and omitted some unflattering stories from volume two. "I can't write that. Either I have to say, 'If I write the third, I'm putting nothing personal in there ... or I could write a book just about literary events, but it wouldn't interest me much.'"

(The Baltimore Sun)

Wit and the supernatural

THE CLAIRVOYANT by Marian Thurm. Cambridge, MA, Zoland Books. 262 pp. \$23.95.

By Leslie Cohen

Victor Mackenzie is a highly skilled professional who loves his work, particularly "the privilege of opening up people's lives, each of them like a novel full of large and small dramas." A psychoanalyst? Close, but not quite. The cynical reader — like several of Victor's clients — may balk, initially, at taking a clairvoyant's troubles seriously. But (again, like several of Victor's clients) she will soon suspend disbelief because of the skillful handling of the subject. Marian Thurm writes with the perfect balance of sophisticated New York wit and matter-of-fact acceptance of the supernatural.

Thurm wags the barbed tongue of her humor at everyone and everything. Rabbis, for starters. One of the major characters tells us, "I don't mean to sound arrogant, but I seem to be the rabbi of choice for people who're turned off by rabbis." Sure he is — such an affable fellow, this guy makes house calls! Even a *treif* Jew like me raises an eyebrow at this rabbi who eats pepperoni pizza and happily arranges the bar mitzva of a boy with a Jewish father and a Baptist (but not practicing) mother.

Mixed marriages are another foil for Thurm's wry sense of humor.

Lucy (the Black mother of the bar mitzva boy) rebels at the idea of her son's bar mitzva having a theme. She sarcastically counterproposes that the theme be "intercultural," with black tablecloths, white napkins and each guest seated next to someone of the opposite color. Scatterbrained Shirley, the pepperoni-pizza-rabbi's ex-wife (what could be better than the rabbi's wife?), embraces the idea wholeheartedly. But she worries that they might not be able to get a "bit-sweet chocolate likeness of Martin Luther King Jr.'s profile, filled with white chocolate mousse," for dessert. Afterwards, best friend Katha commiserates with Lucy, asking, "How dumb could she be, thinking you'd hand out chocolate Martin Luther Kings with white chocolate mousse filling? Anyone would know the white chocolate filling is so politically incorrect!" Manipulative mothers are another target for Thurm's black humor.

Victor's long-dead mother sends her son a divine guardian. In floats Murray the ghost (and former owner

of a candy store that Victor used to frequent as a child) to intercede on Mrs. Mackenzie's behalf. Despite the fact that Victor is enjoying a successful career, Mom thinks it's not too late for him to start medical school. When Murray is unable to persuade Victor, he starts nagging his ward to get married and produce grandchildren. The conversations between Victor and Murray are laced with snide remarks. When Murray refuses to desist, Victor tries to shoot him away by insulting him. He tells Murray, "Maybe I do belong in the psych ward at Bellevue" for taking advice from a ghost "who's been wearing the same pair of pajamas for thirty-three years." Trust Murray to show up in those same pajamas at the bar mitzva.

Poor Victor! Despite his clairvoyance, he can't see where his love life is going. Just like everybody else — "We're all mere mortals," he insists — Victor longs to settle down with Ms. Right. But women are afraid to fall in love with him: they are outraged at the inevitability of being spied upon by his divine guardian spirit, and frightened by the prospect of bearing children who will share his uncomfortable gift. When Lucy's friend Katha falls in love with him, Victor is wary. He finally goes to another clairvoyant for advice.

The meeting of the clairvoyants is one of the book's humorous high points. Thurm tries to demolish the stereotypes about clairvoyants, while poking fun at the foibles of her psychic characters. Before reading his cards, Loraine assures Victor that she would be terrified to consult another clairvoyant herself. When she rattles off a list of the important people in Victor's life, she gets stuck on his girlfriend's name. "Katharine, Kathleen, Kathy...damn, what kind of name is this — I can't get it," she complains. Victor tells her the name is Katha, to which she simply replies, "Never heard of it," and continues spouting off predictions — until Victor is so jarred that he begs her to stop.

The inevitable question, when reading a book about a clairvoyant, is: do we take this seriously, or don't we? I didn't change my initial beliefs about clairvoyants, and you probably won't either. But that's not the point. I suggest the reader skip the inquisition and simply enjoy a well-written book. It's an interesting story, peopled by credible characters. Whether or not one accepts the role of the ghosts in their lives is immaterial. The writing is as lucid as a clairvoyant should be.

Keeping the heart alive

THE MIRROR by Lynn Freed. New York, Crown. 219 pp. \$21.

By Heller McAlpin

The tough, feisty narrator of Lynn Freed's novel maintains an unusually objective perspective on herself throughout her long life.

Although no stranger to men, she prefers to see herself reflected in mirrors rather than through the eyes of her sometimes admiring, sometimes dominating, lovers. *The Mirror* is an invitingly simple narrative by an author who has written two previous novels, *The Bungalow* and *Home Ground*, also set in her native South Africa.

It is prettily packaged as a memoir with bordered pages and old sepia photographs and covers the life of Agnes La Grange from the time she leaves London's East End as a beautiful 17-year-old in 1920. She heads to Durban, South Africa, where she hopes to make something of herself on her own uncon-

ventional terms.

Agnes is a defiantly independent woman at a time when the principal route for betterment open to women — marriage — didn't allow for independence. She has a hearty appetite for sex, though she is loath to use even this weapon in a woman's arsenal for gain. Agnes La Grange is self-made right down to her name: "La" is from a poster she once saw advertising "La Boheme," and "Grange" is from her lowly birthplace. She comes to South Africa to serve as housekeeper to a man she refers to, in her typical confrontational manner, only as "the Old Jew." Living with him are his 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, and his dying wife. But Agnes has higher aspirations. As she sharply puts it, "I hadn't come all this way to empty potpies." The old man seduces her in short order by playing into her narcissistic sexuality in front of the full-length mirror he sends up to her room. He seems to intuit that Agnes is most comfortable when she can consider her life from a remove. It's as if

the ability to watch her own reflection as she interacts with her suitor gives her the distance necessary to maintain her self-perspective. When she becomes pregnant, he installs her in the Railway Hotel, where she manages to buy by getting the old man to "pay up ... his use" of her all at once.

And there she is, gainfully employed, her own keeper, with no man to "bend" her to his will, when along comes the baby, a dark, birdlike creature who takes after her father. "I might have known I would not be a natural mother," Agnes comments unthinkingly. "The whole thing felt like another form of service." She reluctantly accepts the parenting assistance and eventually the hand of the dotting newspaperman who occupies the room next to hers at the hotel. She gives the child the name he suggests, Allegra, along with Leah, the name "the old Jew" pronounces on his only visit to the baby. Agnes knows this was his deceased wife's name, but she claps it on her daughter despite her

misgivings. There was no love lost between her and her dying mistress.

It is no surprise that Agnes is a cold and impatient mother, but what is surprising is her candor in relaying her maternal shortcomings with a minimum of compunction. Her story tracks the consequences of her coldness for her musically gifted and emotionally stunted daughter, who comes to repeat her mother's history to an alarming degree. When Leah bears her own daughter out of wedlock with her half-sister Sarah's husband, she abandons the child to her mother in order to pursue her vocal career in England. Agnes discovers a new, deep kind of love with this granddaughter, Bess, before Bess, too, sets off to make her way in the world.

But the deepest fulfillment in Agnes's life is neither from this relationship nor the numerous liaisons she forms with men who are referred to only by their professions — the hunter, the banker. Agnes finds her greatest satisfac-

tion in her work — running a succession of hotels through the depths of the Depression and the boom years of war, building a fortune by dint of concentrated labor and thrifty living.

The Mirror is as much a paean to the importance of work and independence as it is a social commentary on women's restricted options. "And what I did want indeed but to be mastered myself and yet mistress of myself at the same time?" Agnes asks when considering the rub between her desire for excitement, adventure and love and her unwillingness to trade her independence for security like most women.

She concludes somewhat bleakly, "It was hopeless." The author strings the reader along by starting sentence after sentence with the word "And," and the result is prose that is incantatory in its simplicity. Freed has written an undemanding yet subtle little feminist book about the extraordinary demands of keeping "the heart alive."

(Newsday)

BOOK BYTES

India's 50th year of independence from British rule has occasioned a slew of books. Snakes and Ladders: Glimpses of Modern India (Doubleday/Talea), a collection of essays by Gita Mehta, has been doing well. Mehta, author of seven fiction and non-fiction books, said about this work: "India is a place where worlds are colliding with huge velocity: we're putting satellites into space, and we have bullock carts.... I thought the only way I could describe that collision was anecdotally, by taking snapshots, as it were." Mehta, whose name Gita means "as in a song of freedom," was born in Delhi in 1943. Three weeks later the English arrested her father. At the age of three, Mehta was placed in a boarding school, because "my mother was racing around to get my father out of jail." Her novel *Raj*, tracing the 50 years prior to Indian independence, brought her notoriety in 1989, although she published her first book in 1979. She now lives in Manhattan with her publishing executive husband Sonny Mehta, but all her books are rooted in India. Mehta declares, "You stand on geography as a writer. My heart is in India — it's home — so when I'm there I don't write, I just let it all seep in through my pores."

YOU'RE NEVER too old to write a block-busting bestseller, or earn a million dollars. A 98-year-old grandmother from Manhattan, Kansas, wrote her memoirs in an adult education class taught by a farmer and teacher, Charley Kempthorne. *Any Given Day: The Life and Times of Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux* is the diary of a woman's life and struggles while married to an abusive alcoholic with whom she had eight children. Kempthorne submitted an article on Foveaux to

the *Wall Street Journal*, and the paper ran the story as a front-page feature last March. The publicity released a flood of inquiries from publishers, agents, and TV and movie producers, though none had read a word of the manuscript. The *Journal* ran a second Page One story on the clamor to purchase the memoir.

The property was auctioned off, and Warner Books "won" with a payout of \$1.1 million. Not bad for a first-time author two years shy of her 100th birthday.

TOP WRITERS earn big bucks, but they also give freely to good causes. Names like Sidney Sheldon, John Grisham, Michael Crichton, Mary Higgins Clark and Barbara Taylor Bradford, for instance, were among the first to donate \$10,000 each to Literacy Partners, Inc. The money went to the new Writers for Readers Learning Center in New York. Each \$10,000 collected underwrites the cost of teaching reading and writing skills to one illiterate adult per year.

FANTASY IS fiction's unrecognized genre, that is as far as the critics are concerned. For the readers, it's a different story. Fantasy writers like David Gemmell sell well (as do Terry Pratchett, and that all-time favorite, J.R.R. Tolkien). Gemmell's latest entry, *Winter Warriors* (Bantam), gave rise to a rare interview for a fantasy author in *The BookSeller*.

Gemmell sees stories of tall heroes with long swords as inspiring heroism. He cites one of his readers who, while walking his dog, saved a woman from a violent attack. The reader's letter explained that his swift action was directly influenced by the Gemmell fantasy book he was reading at the time.

David Brunner

The New York Times

BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
2. Violin by Ann Rice (Knopf \$25.95.) From 19th-century Vienna to present-day New Orleans: a demonic lullaby preys upon a woman who loves his music.
3. The Matarese Countdown by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam \$27.50.) A CIA officer struggles to thwart the return of an international cabal.
4. Flood Tide by Clive Cussler. (Simon & Schuster \$26.) Dirk Pitt pursues a Chinese smuggler.
5. The Angel of Darkness by Caleb Carr. (Random House \$25.95.) Dr. Kresler goes after a kidnapper in 1897 Manhattan.
6. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. (Random House \$23.) Booker prize-winner.
7. Underworld by Don DeLillo. (Scribner \$27.50.) American life as lived during the past 50 years.
8. The Best Laid Plans by Sidney Sheldon. (Morrow \$25.) The relationship between a powerful governor and a woman determined to wreak revenge.
9. 10 Lb. Penalty by Dick Francis. (Putnam \$24.95.) A politician's career is imperiled by actions taken by his enemies against his son, a onetime amateur jockey.
10. The Letter by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster \$15.95.) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Parker family recovers from the grief over the loss of a daughter.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Diane: Her True Story — In Her Own Words by Andrew Morton. (Simon & Schuster \$22.95.) An updated, expanded version of the 1992 bestseller.
2. The Royals by Kitty Kelley. (Warner \$27.) Gossip about the House of Windsor.
3. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
4. The Man Who Listens to Horses by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a horse trainer.
5. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
6. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
7. Diane: A Tribute to the People's Princess by Peter Donnelly. (Corgi Books/Running Press \$12.95.) The life of the Princess of Wales.
8. Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
9. Wait Till Next Year by Doris Kearns Goodwin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Recollections of a '50s girlfriend in the orbit of the Brooklyn Dodgers.
10. Conversations with God: Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) Questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Airtame by Michael Crichton. (Ballantine \$7.99.) A young woman probes a plane's near disaster on its way from Hong Kong to Denver.
2. Jack & Jill by James Patterson. (Warner Vision \$7.50.) Alex Cross on the trail of serial killers in Washington.
3. My Gal Sunday by Mary Higgins Clark. (Pocket \$6.99.) An ex-president and his wife investigate four crimes.
4. The Clinic by Jonathan Kellerman. (Bantam \$6.99.) Alex Delaware investigates the murder of a woman who wrote a bestselling indictment of men.
5. The MacGregor Brides by Nora Roberts. (Silhouette \$6.99.) A patriarch finds three young men to marry his granddaughters.
6. A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines. (Vintage \$12.) In 1948, a bond is forged between two black men — one a teacher, the other on death row for murder.
7. Kiss the Girls by James Patterson. (Warner \$6.99.) Police detective Alex Cross pursues a serial killer and his niece's kidnapper.
8. Blood and Honor by W.E.B. Griffin. (Love \$7.50.) In Buenos Aires in 1943, three Americans cope with German efforts to provide for a postwar Reich.
9. This Year It Will Be Different by Maeve Binchy. (Dell \$6.99.) Fifteen stories about contemporary families at Christmastime.
10. Abuse of Power by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg. (Signet \$6.99.) A police officer is framed for a shooting after she exposes rogue cops.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. Diane: Her True Story by Andrew Morton. (Pocket \$7.50.) The first 30 years of the Princess of Wales.
2. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
3. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
4. Hanson by Jill Matthews. (Archway/Pocket \$3.99.) The story of the pop-rock group.
5. Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
6. Seven Years in Tibet by Heinrich Harrer. (Tarcher/Putnam \$13.95.) An Austrian mountaineer recounts his adventures in the 1940s.
7. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man's obsession with the wilderness ends tragically in Alaska.
8. A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
9. Diane: Her New Life by Andrew Morton. (Pocket \$7.50.) The career of the Princess of Wales following the end of her marriage.
10. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

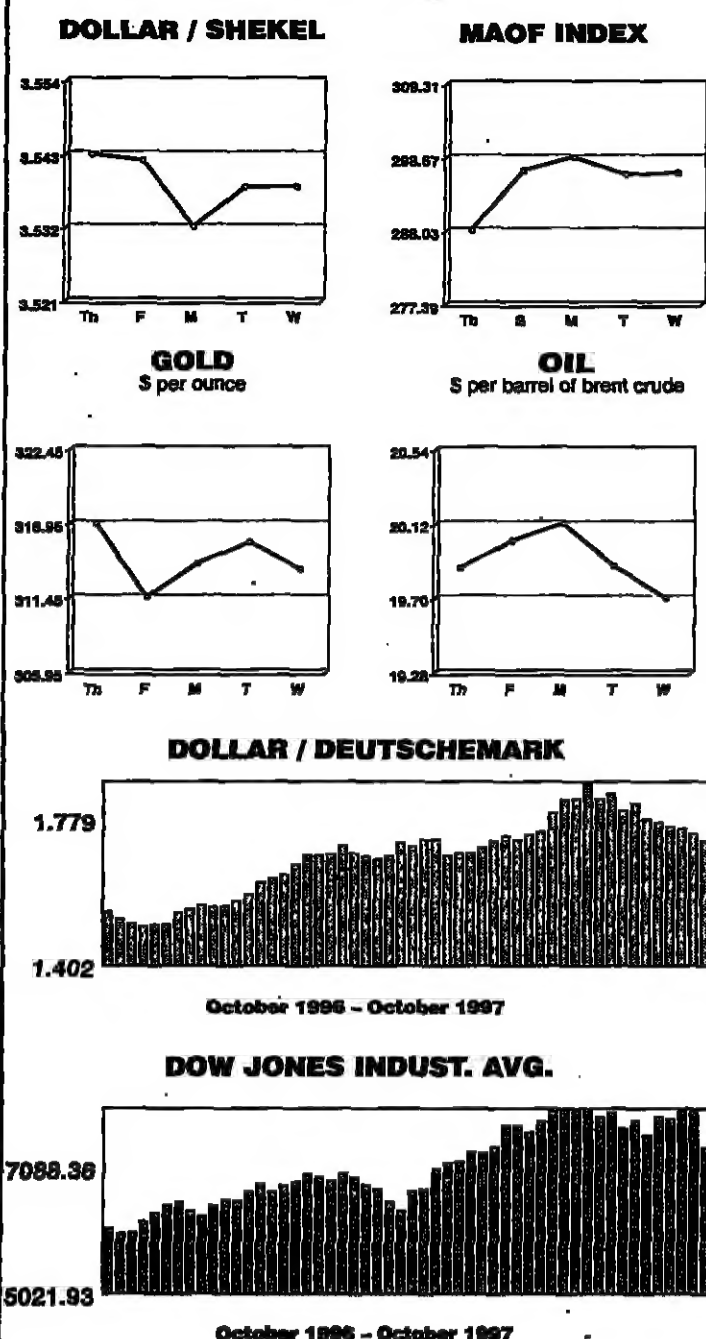
1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Marc Shnoor. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Don't Worry, Make Money by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$15.95.) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life.
2. Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.
3. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
4. Make the Connection by Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey. (Hyperion \$18.95.) Ways to improve one's life mentally and physically.

MARKETS

in brief



Israel to host int'l electronics conference

Israel will host the third international electronic industry organizations' annual conference next week - becoming the first country outside the US to stage the event. Delegates from 17 countries are expected.

The industry is estimated to be worth an annual \$1,000 billion worldwide.

David Harris

Motor vehicle insurance system faces overhaul

Insurance Supervisor Doron Shorer said this week he was examining ways to establish a central registry for information about motor vehicle insurance.

David Harris

PA, Israeli flowers to be exported separately

Flowers exported from Palestinian self-rule areas will be sold separately from those exported by Israel, the Flower Marketing Board's senior officer, Ya'akov Siron, has decided.

David Harris

C&W mulls future of Bezeq stake

UK telecom giant cites government footdragging as obstacle to more activity

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and DAVID HARRIS

If the government continues to put off Cable & Wireless' request to double its holding in Bezeq from 10 percent to 20%, the British telecommunications giant may consider selling its holding, a C&W representative said yesterday.

"Getting rid of a holding is always an option," said Azriel Nevo, who serves as C&W's representative on Bezeq's board of directors.

When C&W approached the

government in 1995, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin made it clear that political red tape would not hinder the company's investment strategy, Nevo said. However, during the last year, the government has obstructed C&W's plans.

"When C&W first came to Israel and said it was interested in a 20% stake in Bezeq, the government said: 'Why 20%? Why not 40% or 60%?' The company took this as a green light to invest in Israel," said Nevo. "For a year now, they've been telling us to be a good kid and sit on the side."

Earlier media reports stating that the Government Companies Authority, the body in charge of selling state assets, had decided to sell an additional 3%-5% of Bezeq to C&W were unfounded, Nevo said.

According to British tax law, C&W will be in a more favorable position if it doubles its holding in Bezeq.

"C&W would be happy to buy more shares in Bezeq from Merrill Lynch [which has a 12.4% stake in the company] or on the stock market, but they need the govern-

ment's approval," he said. "Right now we are stuck."

Moshe Leon, the prime minister's adviser on privatization, declined to discuss the issue, saying negotiations with C&W are at an advanced stage. The Government Companies Authority and the Communications Ministry also declined to comment.

Sources say concern about companies falling into foreign hands is the main reason the government has not yet approved C&W's request.

The government is scheduled to

issue 10% of Bezeq shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange later this month, reducing its holding in the company to 53%.

Meanwhile, Bezeq's board of directors is scheduled to meet today to discuss allegations that Telrad Telecommunication and Electronic Industries and Tadiran Telecommunications, both subsidiaries of Koor Industries, colluded to fix prices and cooperate in Bezeq bids.

Nevo said the company will consider all its options, including suing the entities involved.



Fresh brew

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is handed a cup of coffee by a robot which prepared the brew for him at the Epsilur high-tech factory in Dimona's Tened Industrial Park. Sharansky visited the area amid negotiations with the Treasury and Interior Ministry over ways to reduce property taxes charged to industrial concerns.

Test flights at joint Akaba airport start tomorrow

By DAVID HARRIS

An El Al flight from Vienna will be the first plane to land tomorrow at the joint Israeli-Jordanian airport at Akaba, the Transport Ministry confirmed yesterday.

The four-month trial use of the field was to have commenced yesterday, but the ministry had failed to check that El Al had no flight scheduled until tomorrow.

A joint Israeli-Jordanian security force will check passengers as

they arrive at Shalom Airport. The passengers will then be bused from the airport to a terminal in Eilat, where regular entry procedures will take place.

Initially, the first Israeli flights will be direct Arkia and El Al services from Europe, starting with four flights a week. If the trials prove successful the airport will open to international flights serving both countries.

"We're interested in seeing how convenient the airport is and the reaction of passengers," said El Al

spokesman Nachman Kleiman. Following the arrival of the flight from Vienna, the first departures will be to Leningrad and Frankfurt. Some outbound flights will originate at Ben-Gurion Airport and collect passengers in Eilat.

There are still legal problems to be resolved, according to Transport Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental. Both sides believe they can be resolved within the next few weeks.

Charter flights to the Uvda air-

field are to continue unaffected and for the time being some El Al flights to Europe will also depart from Uvda, because the Akaba runway cannot handle larger aircraft.

The Knesset Economics Committee, meanwhile, yesterday discussed a bill to pave the way for the permanent operation of the airport. Having already passed its first reading, the committee is expected to approve the bill when it next discusses the issue on Monday.

Boeing takes to the skies to land El Al deal

As the deadline draws near for El Al to choose between Boeing or Airbus for its new fleet of medium and short range aircraft, Boeing yesterday pulled out all the stops in an effort to win the order.

El Al plans to purchase five planes for an estimated \$200 million, and was expected to decide on a supplier by the end of December.

Yesterday Boeing took a group of journalists, travel agents and favored El Al passengers for a test flight of its new 737-800, which the airline is contemplating as a vehicle to take passengers to its most distant European destinations of London, Madrid or Lisbon.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said that Boeing has recommended accommodating 162 passengers on the aircraft.

But El Al has asked for a seating configuration for 150, to offer more leg room than European competitors, particularly for business class passengers, Kleiman said.

The aircraft is expected to provide a lot of leg room and food trays distanced comfortably from the largest of stomachs, even in tourist class.

Indirect ceiling lights also convey a feeling of roominess. An optional handrail on the overhead

compartment appears tailor-made for El Al, whose passengers are known to move around the plane as soon as it is airborne.

The aircraft also features seats which can be transformed from six abreast for tourist class, to five abreast for business class. The seats themselves literally expand and contract at the flick of a lever.

Speaking at a press conference following the demonstration flight, Nancy Bethel, executive vice president of the Boeing commercial airplane group, said the company had made a "very aggressive business offer" to El

Al. She also noted that the US manufacturer was trading on a long-standing relationship between the two companies.

Highlighting that relationship was Brian Wygle, a pilot who had volunteered for the IDF air corps in 1948 and remained with the fledgling air force until 1949. Wygle later became a test pilot for Boeing, then its chief test pilot and finally a vice president.

Wygle said that he was very happy that Boeing had called him out of retirement to join the presentation team.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who arrived after the flight to meet Boeing officials, said that the US had not exerted any political pressure on Israel to choose the American manufacturer.

Kleiman said that Airbus would present an aircraft to compete with Boeing's bid on November 25.

Meanwhile El Al has opened a telephone line to give passengers an opportunity to have a say about which aircraft should be purchased. The number is 03-6388886.

Lockheed chief: Mergers vital for Israeli defense firms

The chairman of Lockheed Martin said yesterday consolidation and privatization are important for the future of Israel's defense firms.

Norman Augustine spoke to leaders of defense companies in Tel Aviv at the invitation of Moshe Peled, a Defense Ministry adviser on military industries.

"In the case of the US defense industry, consolidating and merging was terribly important. The only alternative was for everybody to be very inefficient and for everybody to kind of gradually die off," Augustine said.

"So, I tend to think... that consolidation and merging is an important part of whatever might be the future of Israel's defense industries. I also think that privatization is an important part. That's a personal opinion," he said in response to a question.

Augustine said building "linkages with companies outside Israel" is also crucial for the future of Israeli firms.

Peled heads a defense ministry team studying the future of Israeli military manufacturers. He said last month the committee is recommending privatization of three government-owned defense firms - Israel Aircraft Industries, TAAS - Israel Industries, and Rafael (the Armaments Development Authority) - and their consolidation with private sector Elbit Systems and Tadiran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to privatize most government companies, but defense firms are expected to be among the last, because of security considerations and powerful labor unions.

IAI, TAAS, and Rafael develop and manufacture military parts and systems for Israel and foreign markets. Tadiran, a subsidiary of Koor Industries Ltd., and Elbit are publicly traded electronics companies with civilian and military products.

TAAS and IAI are expected to show profits this year after years of heavy losses.

(Reuters)

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מזכירות הממשלה

TASE up on good 3rd-quarter reports

Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv stock indexes rose yesterday as investors eyed positive company earnings reports and trading on Wall Street, including tracking a rebound in Standard & Poor's 500 Index December futures.

Nice Systems Ltd., a digital voice-recording and archiving systems producer, jumped 7.9 percent after it said third-quarter net income, excluding a one-time charge, more than doubled as sales rose 83 percent.

Formula Systems Ltd., a software house, rose 1.45 percent after its subsidiary Crystal Systems reported better-than-expected third-quarter earnings. Earnings reports and optimism inflation will remain in check lifted stock indexes in Europe.

"You need to look at the S&P futures to see why Israeli stocks are rising," said Asher Sela, a portfolio manager at Eilat Ltd., a Tel Aviv firm.

The Maof Index of 25 stocks rose 0.08 percent to 296.42. The Mishnizim Index rose 0.35 percent to 289.45. The Tel Aviv Continuous Trading Index rose 1.05 percent to 100.91. The general bond index was unchanged.

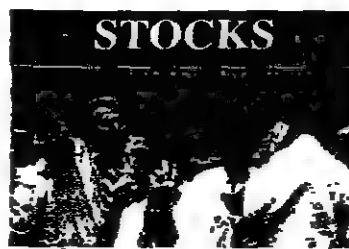
Israeli stock indexes were mixed in early trading as "investors are getting cold feet after what happened in world markets during the past two weeks," said Dror Kraus, a broker with Tel Aviv firm Koor Investment House. "At the same time, company reports are likely to be good."

Bezeq fell for a second day after the government released a report detailing ways to increase telecommunications competition, particularly in the local phone market, in which Bezeq now has a monopoly. Bezeq's shares dropped 0.75 percent.

Europe

UK stocks fell, reversing early gains, on an earnings estimate downgrade at Marks & Spencer Plc and concern the recent rally has made stocks expensive compared with their earnings prospects.

"We would just tend to hold off [from more purchases] for the moment," said Logic Cassells, an investment manager at Capel-Cuie Myers Capital Management Ltd., which has 3 billion pounds (\$5 billion) in UK equities. "November will be a real test of faith."



Maof 296 ▲ 0.08%
Dow Jones 7692 ▲ 0.04%
FTSE 4872 ▼ 0.54%
Nikkei 16448.05 ▼ 0.32%

Asia

Japanese stocks fell, led by Denso Corp. on concern the auto-parts maker's worse-than-expected earnings are a harbinger of poor results to come.

Denso, part of the Toyota Motor Corp. group, said its half-year pre-tax profit fell 20 percent to 37 billion yen (\$306 million). Results were released after Tuesday's market close.

"If Denso - which was thought to have such a solid earnings base - cut profits, then the earnings scenario for auto and parts makers is grim," said Hajime Yagi, deputy general manager at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management KK, which handles 1 trillion yen in securities.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average fell 52.05 points, or 0.32 percent, to 16,448.05, its first drop in three days.

The broader Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 8.33 points, or 0.65 percent, to 1274.63.

Japan's domestic auto sales fell 13 percent in October from a year earlier, the seventh straight monthly drop following the government's increase in the national sales tax in April, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said Tuesday. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Stocks edged higher in another calm session yesterday, but the Dow Jones industrial average faltered just as it was completing a rapid recovery from last week's bruising tumble.

The Dow bounced back from an early 25-point deficit and rose as much as 76 points, but retreated over the final hour to finish just 3.44 points higher at 7,692.57.

The blue-chip barometer is now just 23 points shy of where it was before last Monday's seemingly traumatic 554-point plunge, but is still more than 300 points shy of where the it stood before the financial turmoil in Southeast Asia boiled over two weeks ago.

Dollar up on sign of weakness in Japan, Germany

The dollar rose amid signs of continued economic weakness in Germany and Japan, which drove investors to US assets.

After Bank of Japan Gov. Yasuo Matsuura said Japan's economy isn't enjoying sustainable growth and that the bank won't raise interest rates until it does, "everybody is as bullish on the yen as they can be," said Richard Koss, investment strategist at MFR Inc., a money management and consulting firm.

In Germany, the government reported unemployment rose to a record high in October and industrial production fell 1.6 percent in September. "It definitely looks like we're not getting any particularly strong recovery in Germany either," Koss said.

Traders expect both the Bank of Japan and the Bundesbank to

refrain from raising rates anytime soon. The higher rates in the US lure investors to bank deposits and bonds denominated in dollars.

The dollar rose to 122.63 yen from 121.82 yen late Tuesday in New York and to 1.7240 marks from 1.7205 marks. The dollar's gain versus the mark was limited by concern about Southeast Asia's economic and stock market turmoil. The mark is seen as a safe haven from Asia's difficulties because its economic ties with the region are weaker than those of the US.

Japan's persistent economic woes - the economy shrank 2.9 percent in the second quarter - has led traders to conclude that "Japan is more willing to see the yen weaken," said Chris Igo, currency strategist at Barclays Bank.

A falling yen helps the Japanese



Dollar 1.538 unchanged
Basket 1.836 ▼ 0.19%
Mark 2.0447 ▼ 0.50%
Sterling 5.9371 ▼ 0.28%

economy by making exports cheaper in foreign currency terms. Exports have been the economy's sole source of strength in recent months.

"More and more you get the idea that they will rely on a weak yen to get themselves off the ground," MFR's Koss said. And there is a

growing sense the Clinton administration will acquiesce to that strategy, he said.

Earlier in the year, administration officials were vociferous in telling Japan to spur recovery with domestic-led growth rather than exports. They would also like Japan to increase government spending and cut taxes, Koss said.

However, with Japanese officials having expressed worries about the country's budget deficit - the second highest in the Group of Seven nations as a percentage of economic output - US officials realize Japan is unlikely to introduce much fiscal stimulus, Koss said. "So you won't get much resistance to the dollar going above 125 yen," he said, adding that the dollar may reach that level within two weeks.

In Germany, the record 11.8%

unemployment rate and drop in industrial output shows "there's nothing encouraging there," said Roger Chapin, manager of foreign exchange at Bank One in Columbus, Ohio. "It's strictly exports leading the economy, and that isn't enough to pull everything up with it."

Still, the dollar is unlikely to rise much against the mark, Chapin and others said. "People are still suspicious after last week's stock blowout" in the US, Chapin said.

With recent declines in stock and bond markets throughout the world, "people aren't looking for an interest rate hike here" in the US, Chapin said.

Barclays' Igo predicted the dollar will trade in a range of 1.7150-1.7425 marks during the next two weeks. (Bloomberg)

Oil little changed as traders await UN-Iraq

Precious metals

Precious Metals Gold was steady as jewelers took advantage of low prices to secure supplies, offsetting concern that more central banks will sell gold. With prices down 15 percent this year, jewelers are stocking up on gold in preparation for the busy holiday-buying season that begins at the end of the year, analysts said. The increased demand offset concern that Switzerland's announcement that it intends to sell a third of its gold reserves will spark selling by central banks in other countries. Spot gold traded 90 cents higher at \$314.85 an

ounce in London.

Oil

Brent crude oil futures were little changed to higher as traders await news of talks between the United Nations and Iraq over Iraq's proposed removal of US nationals on the UN weapons inspection team stationed in the country. If Iraq expels the US members of Unuscom, the group charged with ridding the country of its weapons of mass destruction, it could prompt the UN to halt Iraq's limited oil sale at the

COMMODITIES

Gold \$313.65 ▼ 0.3%
Crude Oil \$19.63 ▲ 0.02%
CBE 241.78 ▲ 0.17%

December 5 renewal date, cutting global supplies by about 1%. Prices could decline because the American Petroleum Institute reported a build in US crude sup-

plies, three times larger than most traders expected, however traders will likely shun this because of uncertainty over Iraqi supplies. On London's International Petroleum Exchange, December Brent futures edged 7 cents higher to \$19.68 a barrel.

Others

Robusta coffee rose for a third day as a week of rain in Vietnam delayed the harvest of this year's coffee crop. Rain makes it difficult for coffee growers to dry beans before they are shipped.

Last year many Vietnamese coffee growers suffered losses as damp beans rotted in what is normally the drying season. Robusta coffee for January delivery rose \$21 to \$1,520 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Copper was little changed close to its lowest levels for almost a year, amid sagging demand in Asia which may be diverting metal into European stockpiles. Copper inventories held by the London Metal Exchange now total 346,175 metric tons, some 185% higher than the six-month low of 121,550 tons reported June 20. The benchmark three-month forward copper contract on the LME

US bonds rise as ample demand expected in auction

US bonds rose for the first time in four days amid speculation the Treasury will meet ample demand for the \$33 billion of new government debt it was selling yesterday and today.

"We'll probably see this firm tone sustained going into the bidding" for the \$11 billion of 10-year notes the Treasury is selling, said Dan Seto, an economist at Nikko Securities International.

Yields on benchmark 30-year bonds climbed 8 basis points so far this week, making bonds more attractive to investors after a recent rally drove yields to 20-

month lows. The benchmark 30-year bond rose 1/4, or \$2.50 per \$1,000 bond, with its yield 2 basis points lower at 6.23%.

The auctions are part of a total of \$62 billion of sales this week, including \$14 billion of three-year notes Tuesday and \$10 billion of 30-year bonds that were due yesterday.

The Treasury will also auction \$12 billion of one-year bills today after selling \$15 billion of three- and six-month securities Monday.

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 6.23 ▲ 0.2

"Supply is the focal point" in the bond market right now, said Bill Kirby, co-head of government bond trading at Prudential

Securities. The new 10-year note yielded 5.94% in so-called when-issued trading, which occurs before the securities are delivered. That's 11 basis points higher than the current 10-year note traded on Friday.

Wall Street firms that bid on Treasury securities and later resell them typically drive yields higher before an auction to drum up demand.

Bonds may also take their cue from stocks, traders said, as they have in recent weeks when Asian market turbulence triggered drops in stock markets around the world.

"The critical issue now is how much all of this affects the US economy," said Scott Grannis, who helps manage \$35 billion in fixed-income securities at Western Asset Management in Pasadena, California.

Yields barely budged after the government yesterday said orders placed with US factories rose 0.4% in September, a fourth monthly increase. Analysts expected a 0.2% decline.

Some investors suggest bonds may gain tomorrow if the government's monthly employment report shows job growth slowed in

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Thursday, November 6

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Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Clalit Pharm, 114 Ahuva, Ra'anana, 741-0211.

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Pound sterling 5.9064 6.0017

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Japanese yen (100) 2.8678 2.9138

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Swiss franc 2.4908 2.5305

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Norwegian krone 0.4981 0.5062

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Chelsea heavy favorite against Tromso today

BONN (Reuters) - Despite a shock 3-2 win in the blizzard-hit home leg, Norwegian lightweights Tromso have little hope of depriving Chelsea of a third round appearance.

"If I'm to be quite honest I think that our chances are very small," Tromso coach Haakan Sandberg said of his side's visit to Stamford Bridge. "We'll get through with a draw but I think it's going to be hard for us."

Yet Tromso, after their surprising victory two weeks ago, seem to be in good form heading into the second leg, having avoided relegation from Norway's elite division at the weekend with a 6-1 aggregate win over first division Elfk-Tonsberg.

Chelsea, meanwhile, used goals from Mark Hughes and Tore Andre Flo to win 2-0 at Aston Villa and move up to fourth in the Premier League, six points behind Manchester United but with a game in hand.

VfB Stuttgart, regarded as Chelsea's most dangerous rivals for the title, have little to fear after flooring Borussia Dortmund 4-0 in Belgium in the first leg with Fredi Bobic and Jonathan-Akporbie scoring a double each.

"On paper reaching the third round is a lost cause," said defender Mike Verstraeten, Ekeren's only Belgian international, who will be suspended.

"But they should not lose heart," he added of his teammates. "It is not a practice game and Borussia should show that they can give the Germans a hard time."

Ambitious Stuttgart, still without inspirational Bulgarian midfielder Krassimir Balakov, nursing a sore thigh muscle, could only manage a dull goalless draw at home to UEFA Cup winners Schalke 04 in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Real Betis, who visit FC Copenhagen with their confidence boosted by a 2-0 win at home,

NEWCASTLE (AP) - PSV Eindhoven got a first-half goal from Luc Nilis to beat Newcastle 2-0 yesterday in the Champions League, a loss that all but eliminated the English side from any chance of making the quarterfinals.

The victory kept PSV in second place in Group C behind Dynamo Kiev with seven points to 10 for Newcastle.

PSV, with just one loss in 17 games, dominated the early play as Newcastle took 20 minutes to get its first shot in a ragged beginning.

Belgian international Nilis broke through in the 34th minute to give the Dutch champions a 1-0 lead on a one-two pass from teammate Gilles De Bilde as Nilis beat Newcastle goalkeeper Shay Given from 12 meters.

De Bilde scored in the final minute to make it 2-0.

FC Barcelona (Spain) 0
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 4
Andriy Shevchenko scored a hat-trick on two high-flying headers and converted a penalty to humble Spanish giant Barcelona 4-0 in the Champions League.

With this defeat, Barcelona has completely lost any hopes of being in the Champions League.

Dynamo had already beaten Barcelona 4-0 two weeks ago.

Shevchenko gave Dynamo Kiev an early lead just eight minutes into the game and stunned the crowd of 65,000 at Camp Nou Stadium.

The 21-year-old Russian international got his second in the 31st minute as he leaped high and headed in from the penalty mark and a perfect pass from Andriy Husin. He got the third on a penalty in the 45th.

Things went worse for the Spanish team, European Champion in 1992 and three times a UEFA Cup Champion, when the referee showed the red card to defender Sergi Barjuan for touching the ball with his hand in the second-half's first minute.

Taking advantage of Barcelona's inferiority in play and players, Serhiy Rebrov scored Dynamo's fourth in the 75th after stealing a



FANCY FOOTWORK - Feyenoord Rotterdam striker Patricio Graf (left) fights for the ball with Manchester United defender Henning Berg during their match yesterday.

ball from Barcelona's defender Albert Ferrer.

It's Barcelona's biggest defeat in a Europe Championship since 1980.

Group A
Galatasaray 2, Sparta Prague 0
Scorers: Tugay Keremoglu 57, 84.

Group B
Feyenoord 1, Manchester United 3
Scorers: Feyenoord - Igor Korneev 84, Manchester United - Andy Cole 30, 43, 73.

Group C
Barcelona 0, Dynamo Kiev 4
Scorers: Andriy Shevchenko 9, 32, 44pen, Serhiy Rebrov 77.

Group D
Newcastle United 0, PSV Eindhoven 2
Scorers: Luc Nilis 33, Gilles De Bilde 90.

Group E
Feyenoord 1, Manchester United 3
Scorers: Feyenoord - Igor Korneev 84, Manchester United - Andy Cole 30, 43, 73.

Group F
Lyon 0, Borussia Dortmund 1
Scorers: Lyon - Mario Jardel 8, Borussia Dortmund - Rens Struelens 88.

Group G
Olympique 0, Real Madrid 0

Group H
Gothenburg 2, Besiktas 1
Scorers: Gothenburg - Stefan Pettersson 17pen, Robert Andersson, 23, Besiktas -

Derogiu Otkay 45

Group I
Lyon 0, Borussia Dortmund 1
Scorers: Lyon - Mario Jardel 8, Borussia Dortmund - Rens Struelens 88.

Group J
Bayer Leverkusen 4, Sporting Lisbon 1
Scorers: Leverkusen - Emerson 16, 73, Paulo Nik 84, Martin Rydell 93, Lisbon - Musapha Hadji 44

Hap. Jerusalem out to change Euro fortunes

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

New Hapoel Jerusalem coach Eddy Birmbaum has packed a lot of chalk and blackboards for tonight's EuroLeague match vs. Kinder Bologna (Channel 5, tape delay, 23:30). The game figures to be little more than a learning experience for Birmbaum's club, as they take on one of the toughest teams in Europe in an effort to improve on their own dismal 1-4 EuroLeague mark.

Last time the two clubs met, in Jerusalem, Kinder walked off with an easy 81-68 victory, thanks to the outstanding play of point guard Antoine Rigaudeau, a member of the French national squad. Rigaudeau absolutely bedeviled the Jerusalem backcourt, nailing three pointers or streaking down the court as he led the potent Kinder break. Jerusalem hasn't been the only ones to feel his wrath - Rigaudeau is averaging 15.8 points per game, four assists, and is 10-25 (40 percent) from three-point land.

Sasha Danilovic also gave Hapoel fits. The former Miami Heat forward showed why he's considered such a fine all-around player with a typical line that night: 15 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Danilovic is another reason why Kinder is not only atop Group C, but also lead the Italian league. He's averaging 18.8

ppg. His only weakness so far has been his three-point shooting - just 6-20.

A surprise factor in the victory at Malha was John Amaechi, a British citizen who also played in the NBA. Despite not being considered an offensive threat, he contributed scoring off the bench, and is averaging 8.3 a game. When veteran starting center Zoran Savic gets in trouble, Amaechi fills the gap admirably.

Alessandro Abbis is the shooting guard for Kinder, and is a red-hot five of six from beyond the arc, meaning the Italians, who are averaging 81.6 points per game, don't lack for firepower.

Jerusalem has had more downs than ups in the European wars till now, but can be optimistic based on Sunday night's road victory in Eliat in Birmbaum's debut. While newly acquired Papi Turgeman is ineligible for European play until the second round, Birmbaum showed he would give Doron Adefa more playing time, which is a wise move. Adefa Gordon showed some signs of breaking out of his slump, and Motti Daniel looked like he was back into things vs. Eliat.

Jerusalem's strategy until now has been to get the ball to Radisav Curcic, who is averaging 20 points per game, on almost 75% shooting. However, Curcic is going to have to share the ball more since EuroLeague clubs have fig-

Maccabi looks to get back on track against Limoges

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Frenchmen 78-62 in a game in which Tel Aviv dominated inside and had a suffocating team defense which limited Limoges to only 20 second-half points.

Limoges, with a 1-4 record, has not improved much since then. It brings a 1-2 home mark into the contest and has the worst offensive performance among the 24 Euro League teams with only 64.4 points a game (while allowing 75).

Its offense is so paltry that small forward Hugues Occaney is the leading scorer with only 11.2 points a game. Former Israeli league forward Nenad Markovic is second at 10.0 a contest.

The club also suffers from a lack of aggressiveness, as it goes to the free-throw line an average of only 17.6 times a game (while making only 62.5 percent of the shots, third worst in the league).

Maccabi, on the other hand, draws enough fouls to go to the line 24.2 times a contest, connecting on a league-best 81%.

Limoges is so disillusioned with foreign guard Chris Smith (9.8 average) that it has already replaced him in league play and intends to do the same in Europe once that is allowed in December.

One bright spot for Limoges, however, is the return of center Jean Jacques Conceicao, who played in his first European contest this season last game against Real Madrid and scored 12 points, pulled down seven rebounds and had four assists in 35 minutes of play in a losing effort. He has also been instrumental in Limoges's five-game league winning streak.

Maccabi hopes to continue its relative success in France, where it sports a 6-10 all-time championship record - including a 69-62 win last season in Limoges. Maccabi's all-time record against Limoges is 8-6, including a 4-3 mark in France.

Tonight's contest is scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1 starting at 8:15 pm.

Sri Lanka thrash Pakistan to reach final

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) - Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva both blasted centuries against Pakistan to power Sri Lanka into the Golden Jubilee tournament final in record-breaking style yesterday.

Opener Jayasuriya struck 134 and Aravinda hit 102 in a record, unbroken third-wicket stand of 213 to sweep Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket win that dumped Pakistan out of the four-team competition of day-night games.

World Cup champions Sri Lanka, who surged to 281 for two with 10 of their 50 overs to spare after dismissing Pakistan for 280, now face South Africa in Saturday's final.

The hosts' defeat angered spectators, some of whom threw crackers onto the field, stopping the game for five minutes.

Sri Lanka were given a perfect start of 65 in 71 balls by Jayasuriya and Marvin Atapattu, who made 23 when he was run out by a pinpoint throw from deep mid-wicket by Ijaz Ahmed.

Roshan Mahanama (0) fell to a fine slip catch by Amir Sohail off Azhar Mahmood at 68 but Pakistan's attack was then flayed during the commanding partnership between Jayasuriya and Aravinda.

Both stroked the ball elegantly in a fine exhibition of batting as they broke Sri Lanka's all-time record one-day stand of 184 against Kenya at Kandy during the 1996 World Cup.

Man-of-the-match Jayasuriya reached his 100, his sixth one-day

international century, from only 86 balls, hitting 10 fours and two sixes, one each off Waqar Younis and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

Altogether he faced 114 balls and cracked 13 fours and three sixes, while Aravinda's 10th one-day international century contained 12 fours in his 90-ball innings.

Earlier, Ijaz (94) and Sohail (70) provided the basis of Pakistan's total after they were put in to bat, sharing a stand of 122 for the third wicket after Shahid Afridi (39) and Saeed Anwar (26) gave their side a

bright start of 66 in 63 balls.

Ijaz's innings contained five fours and two sixes while Sohail had five fours in his 82-ball knock.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said heavy dew on the ground made bowling very difficult.

"Winning the toss was very crucial and that made things difficult for us," he added.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga praised Jayasuriya and Aravinda and said they made batting look so easy. "This win has put us in better mind to play South Africa in the final."



LOSING BATTLE - Pakistan's Ijaz Ahmed drives a single on his way to 94.

PAKISTAN INNINGS

Shahid Afridi c Chameinda Vaas	39
Saeed Anwar c Arjuna Ranatunga b Chameinda Vaas	26
Amir Sohail c and b Muttiah Muralitharan	70
Ijaz Ahmed solo (Ijaz Chameinda) b Sajwan De Silva	94
Wasim Akram c Aravinda de Silva b Sanath Jayasuriya	68
Wasim Murali c Lanka De Silva b Muttiah Muralitharan	31
Mani Ram run out	10
Azhar Mahmood c Lanka De Silva b Sajwan De Silva	15
Rashid Latif c Lanka De Silva b Chameinda Vaas	30
Waqar Younis b Sajwan De Silva	30
Saqlain Mushtaq run out	31
Extras (LB+NB)	39
Total (All out in 49.4 overs)	280
Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-73, 3-195, 4-205, 5-214, 6-234, 7-289, 8-278, 9-278, 10-280	

SRI LANKA BOWLING (Overs-maiden-run-wickets)

Chameinda Vaas	10-59-3
Sajwan De Silva	9-41-0-3
Kumar Thirimalingam	10-41-0
Muttiah Muralitharan	10-37-2
Sanath Jayasuriya	4-54-1
Aravinda de Silva	4-25-0

SRI LANKA INNINGS

Sanath Jayasuriya run out	134
Marvin Atapattu run out	23
Roshan Mahanama c Amir Sohail b Azhar Mahmood	68
Aravinda de Silva run out	102
Extras (LB+NB)	22
Total (For 2 wickets in 40 overs)	281
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-48	
Did not bat: Hashim Khan, Arjuna Ranatunga, Lanka De Silva, Kumar Thirimalingam, Chameinda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sajwan De Silva	

PAKISTAN BOWLING (Overs-maiden-run-wickets)

Wasim Akram	8-44-0-2
Waqar Younis	8-49-0-1
Saqlain Mushtaq	8-55-0
Azhar Mahmood	8-51-1
Kumar Thirimalingam	8-32-0
Shahid Afridi	5-42-0-5

Results: Sri Lanka won by eight wickets. Man of the Match: Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)

P	W	L	T	Pts	run-rate
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	8	+1.36
South Africa	2	2	0	4	+0.23
Pakistan	3	1	2	0	-4.07
West Indies	3	0	3	0	-4.92

Canucks lose 8th straight

LANDOVER, Maryland (Reuters) - A new era began for the Vancouver Canucks Tuesday with the same old results.

Hours after president and general manager Pat Quinn was fired after more than a decade of guiding the team, the Canucks suffered their eighth straight loss, a 2-1 defeat to the Washington Capitals, who snapped a six-game winless streak.

Calle Johansson and Peter Bondra scored for the Capitals with Adam Oates and Phil Housley assisting on both goals as the Canucks turned in one of their best defensive efforts of the season, only to fall to 3-11-2, the second-worst start in franchise history.

"When you get a team like Vancouver that is very desperate and a team like us that is very desperate, you've got to expect a low scoring game," Housley said.

Bondra snapped a tie with 12:17 left in regulation converting a give and go with Oates by beating Kirk McLean with a wrist shot from the edge of the right circle for his seventh goal of the season.

Muster out of Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Thomas Muster became the third seed to bow out of the Stockholm Open when he was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 by Slovakian Karol Kucera in the second round yesterday.

Tim Henman overcame an erratic serve to beat Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 and earn a quarter-final clash with top seed Patrick Rafter.

Australian Rafter, who has yet to drop a set in Stockholm, took just 65 minutes to defeat Belgian Johan Van Herck 6-3, 6-4.

The US Open champion is one of six players already to qualify for next week's ATP Tour world championships in Hanover.

Spain's Carlos Moya yesterday joined Rafter, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Jonas Bjorkman and Greg Rusedski in the elite event despite being knocked out of the Stockholm tournament by Boris Becker on Tuesday.

Two places are still to be decided and Henman is in with a chance of qualifying. The defeat of Muster, the fifth seed, by Kucera, winner of the Czech Open last month, means the Austrian has little chance of traveling to Hanover.

"It's not going to be easy, is it?" said Henman, 17th in the world rankings and eighth seed in Stockholm. "But Patrick's mind might be on next week so maybe I can create some opportunities."

Third-ranked Rafter conceded that his first appearance at the end-of-season championship was in his thoughts, but said it would not affect his play on Friday.

"These days I am thinking a little toward Hanover, but I'd still like to do very well here. I won't be thinking of Hanover when I play Tim."

In first round play, Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman pressed Marco Kevin Goellner throughout a straight-sets victory which was cut short at 6-4, 5-2 when the German retired with a right hip injury.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

Knicks post 20th straight win over Celts

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks returned to Madison Square Garden of their former coach Rick Pitino by humiliating his Boston Celtics 102-70 on Tuesday.

Patrick Ewing scored 26 points and Chris Mills and John Starks came off the bench to blow open the game as the Knicks posted their 20th straight victory over the Celtics.

Mills scored 17 and Starks added 14 for New York, which has not lost to Boston since January 10, 1993.

"I remember the days when they had the dominance over us," Ewing said. "It's nice that the tide is turned."

Pitino, who guided the Knicks to the Atlantic Division title in the 1988-89 season before leaving for the University of Kentucky, returned to the pro ranks this season to take over the task of turning around the once proud Celtics.

"I think that we were over-matched from a team that is very experienced at both ends of the floor," Pitino said. "They played a wonderful basketball game. We certainly did not."

Travis Knight had 13 points for

Boston, which has suffered consecutive double-digit losses since an opening night upset of the Chicago Bulls.

Hawks 82, Pistons 71
Steve Smith scored 15 of his 27 points in the decisive third quarter and Alan Henderson had another strong game off the bench as Atlanta remained unbeaten.

The Hawks are 3-0 for the first time since 1990. The Pistons matched their franchise low for points in a game, tying the mark set against the Hawks on January 5, 1988.

A crowd of 13,961 attended the first of Atlanta's 28 games in the Georgia Dome, normally the home of the NFL Falcons but serving as a part-time basketball venue for the next two seasons while a new downtown arena is being built.

Henderson finished with 19 points, raising his season average to 18.7.

Raptors 104, Warriors 86
John Wallace scored 17 points and Damon Stoudamire had 16 points and 13 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to defeat host Sacramento.

Toronto forced 25 turnovers

while committing only nine. Doug Christie had 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Raptors and also played excellent defense against Latrell Sprewell.

Sprewell, who averaged 35 points in Golden State's first two games, was held to 12 points. Donyell Marshall led the Warriors with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

SuperSonics 118, Rockets 94
Gary Payton had 27 points and 12 assists, and the visiting Seattle SuperSonics held Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler in check.

Detlef Schrempf added 22 points and Vin Baker 20 for Seattle.

Charles Barkley led the Rockets with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Olajuwon was held to eight points and four rebounds in 32 minutes, while Drexler finished with nine points in 25 minutes.

Lakers 101, Kings 98

Eddie Jones scored a career-high 35 points and Elden Campbell made five straight free throws in the closing minutes as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to defeat host Sacramento.

Campbell scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half. Jones scored 24 points in the first half, when he made 10 of 11 shots from the field.

Mitch Richmond led Sacramento (0-3) with 24 points. (Reuters, AP)

Tuesday's results:
Toronto 104, Golden State 86
New York 102, Boston 70
Atlanta 82, Detroit 71
Cleveland 80, Indiana 77
Seattle 118, Houston 94
Milwaukee 110, Orlando 76
Dallas 92, Vancouver 87
Washington 120, Denver 96
Phoenix 106, Utah 84
Portland 122, Minnesota 105
L.A. Lakers 101, Sacramento 98



GREAT SCOTT — Philadelphia's Scott Rolen, was voted NL Rookie of the Year.

Rolen unanimous top NL rookie

NEW YORK (AP) — Scott Rolen of the Philadelphia Phillies was unanimously voted National League Rookie of the Year yesterday, breaking the Los Angeles Dodgers' five-year hold on the award.

The 22-year-old third baseman became the youngest NL player to reach 90 RBIs since Darryl Strawberry in 1984, and led NL rookies in batting average (.283), runs (93), hits (159), doubles (35), homers (21) and RBIs (92). Los Angeles players had won the award since 1992, an unprecedented streak established by Eric Karros, Mike Piazza, Raul Mondesi, Hideki Nomo and Todd Hollandsworth.

No Dodgers even received votes this year. Wilton Guerrero, their top candidate, hit .291 with four homers and 32 RBIs.

Rolen received all 28 first-place votes and 140 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Livan Hernandez, the Cuban defector who went 9-3 with a

3.18 ERA in 17 starts for the Florida Marlins, was tied for second with Matt Morris, who was 12-9 with a 3.19 ERA for the St. Louis Cardinals. Both had 25 points.

Rich Loeiselle of the Pittsburgh Pirates was fourth with 22 points, followed by Andrew Jones of the Atlanta Braves with 15.

Rolen was the Phillies' second-round pick in the June 1993 amateur draft. He became the first Philadelphia rookie to lead the team in homers and RBIs since Greg Luzinski in 1972, and had the most homers and RBIs for a Phillies rookie since Willie Montanez in 1971.

Rolen, who made the minimum \$150,000 last season, earned a \$25,000 bonus for winning the award. He became the eighth unanimous NL rookie winner, joining Jackie Robinson (1947), Orlando Cepeda (1958), Willie McCovey (1959), Vince Coleman (1985), Benito Santiago (1987), Piazza (1993) and Mondesi (1994).

Combined with Nomar Garciaparra's unanimous election as AL Rookie of the Year on Monday, it marked only the third time both rookie winners were unanimous choices. It also happened in 1993 (Piazza and Tim Lincecum) and 1987 (Santiago and Mark McGwire).

Rolen is the third Phillies player to win, joining Jack Sanford (1957) and Richie Allen (1964).

Voting for the 1997 National League Rookie of the Year Award, with first, second- and third-place votes and total points on a 5-3-1 basis:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot
Scott Rolen, Phi	28	—	—	140
Livan Hernandez, Fla	8	1	25	25
Matt Morris, StL	7	4	25	25
Rich Loeiselle, Pitt	4	10	22	22
Andrew Jones, Atl	4	3	15	15
Vladimir Guerrero, Mon	1	6	9	9
Jose Guillen, Chi	1	1	4	4
Brett Tomko, Cin	1	1	4	4
Jeremi Gonzalez, Chi	1	1	4	4
Tony Womack, Pit	1	1	3	3
Kevin Orie, Chi	1	1	1	1
Heidi Perez, Cal	1	1	1	1

Britain to open football museum

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain announced plans yesterday to set up its first football museum.

The museum will be located in the northwest of England at Deepdale Stadium in Lancashire, home to Preston North End Football Club since 1875 and the oldest ground in the Football League.

"This is the first national museum in England to celebrate this country's contribution to the world's most popular game," said the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is helping finance the center.

The Heritage Lottery Fund said it would grant the museum £7.56 million pounds, allowing it to buy and house the so-called FIFA collection of football memorabilia.

The collection contains more than 1,000 items, including the oldest known soccer ball game, dating from 1886, clothes from the 1966 World Cup, as well as boots worn and footballs kicked by the stars of the sport. The oldest pieces date back to the 16th century.

The Heritage Lottery Fund backs a wide array of projects using proceeds from Britain's weekly lottery.

Preston North End — while far removed from the glamour clubs of the late 1990s — was a founding member of the Football League and has been linked to top names in soccer from Bobby Charlton to Tom Finney.

The museum is due to open in 1999 at a cost of £12 million, part financed by the private sector.

Football, injected with fresh cash and a wealth of overseas talent, is more popular than ever.

Last year England hosted the European football championships and the national side has qualified for the World Cup tournament to be held in France next year.

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Britain to open football museum

Weekender



A heavily muscled, shaven-headed, gutter-talking Demi Moore takes on the most male of preserves, the SEALS – the US Navy's special-forces unit.

The toughest cookie

In 'G.I. Jane,' Demi Moore takes as much physical punishment as any woman ever has on the silver screen

By MICHAEL OLIVIO

Behind some of cinema's most vivid and heroic women characters in recent years is a British director with a grey beard and a Cuban cigar in his mouth. He launched Sigourney Weaver's Ripley on the first of her battles against rapacious aliens and later set Thelma and Louise loose on their journey of female rebellion. In *G.I. Jane*, which opens in Israeli cinemas tomorrow, he's poised to unleash a heavily muscled, shaven-headed, gutter-talking Demi Moore on the most male of preserves, the SEALS, the Navy's special-forces unit.

When a retrospective of his films was shown at Washington's Kennedy Center by the American Film Institute in August, Ridley Scott willingly accepted the characterization of himself as a feminist. "I guess I must be," he said as though he'd never considered the question before. "A lot of men have a problem with strong women. I never have." The actresses who appear in Ridley Scott films had better be strong.

Scott said that Moore put on 25 pounds (about 11 kilos) of muscle to play Navy Lt. Jordan O'Neill, who endures as much physical punishment as any woman ever has on the screen. In addition to all the heavy lifting, running, and

swimming in the open seas, Jordan is beaten up by a training officer, her head slammed into wooden poles and her ribs kicked. But in the end, with her eyes blackened and lips split, Jordan perseveres, a symbol, Scott says, that certain women can perform any job a man can.

In Scott's view, it's not a question of whether women can succeed in a man's arena, it's whether men can handle their success. Quoting one of the male officers in *G.I. Jane*, Scott said of Moore's character, "She's not the problem. We are."

In its story line, *G.I. Jane* is as predictable as a movie can be. Even Scott volunteers that the film is formulaic. But he is not apologetic. "If formulaic is somebody who is unlikely to succeed starting a process and succeeding – then isn't that what most films are about? And art films are about people who aren't likely to succeed, and then don't succeed. I know I'm being facetious, but mainstream films tend to have success as an ending, and I guess we didn't want failure."

At times Scott, 59, a mild, rusty-haired man, sounds like someone determined to hue closely to Hollywood orthodoxy. A film student at London's Royal College of Art, he directed episodic television before putting in 10 extremely profitable years as a director of commercials, many of them

award-winning. In 1977, he directed his first movie, a period piece called *The Duellists*, starring Harvey Keitel as a Napoleonic officer who through the decades relentlessly insists on fighting Keith Carradine to the death over a long-forgotten slight. The film, which cost only \$900,000 to produce, earned enthusiastic notices and won the Jury Prize at Cannes.

It was a heady beginning, which caused Scott all the more disappointment when he discovered that critical acclaim does not equate with commercial success. After Cannes, he learned that only seven copies of *The Duellists* were to be circulated in the United States. No one would see his film. He was convinced he was a failure.

He was wrong, of course. Someone had seen his film. Someone important. The reception of *The Duellists* at Cannes landed Scott the opportunity to film *Alien* – a science-fiction thriller about a woman commander of a spaceship that was carrying a toothy, serial-killing alien. Scott found himself with a \$8.6 million budget and in short order, he had his first Hollywood hit.

"It was weird," he said. "In two films I experienced the art side and the Hollywood side of filmmaking. In a way there's a danger to understanding the difference because you then go down that route of optimum opportunity for

Hollywood success, which is commerce over art." *Alien* was one of the pioneering action films to have a heroine at its center, and its claustrophobic look became a model for later space films. His *Blade Runner* (1982) was even more influential with its bleak, dispiriting vision of a soulless world where technology is supreme. And, of course, *Thelma and Louise* provided the visceral pleasure of watching women taking their revenge for enduring a lifetime of Neanderthal males.

Scott is pleased by the way he handled sexuality in *G.I. Jane*. "We avoid sex completely," he said. "It's asexual."

In one scene, the training officer, played by Viggo Mortensen, walks in on Jordan while she's in the shower. "The natural tendency would be for her to cover herself," said Scott, "but her intuition knew this and led her to decide not to cover up but to perpetuate the idea that she is just like the rest of them."

While Scott may have a high regard for the professionalism of Naval officers, that doesn't mean the US Navy thinks well of his film. The Navy refused its help on the movie and issued a statement distancing itself from *G.I. Jane*. "[The Department of Defense] did not support the production because the script contained portrayals of military life, people, operations and training that did

not reflect today's military or the fact that individual dignity is primary in the U.S. Navy," the statement said.

Scott believes the Navy was displeased with his portrayal of the Navy brass being opposed to a woman joining an elite fighting force. In fact, federal law prohibits women from being in direct combat units. Presumably, the Navy wasn't happy with a film that showed SEAL candidates being beaten and tortured as part of their training. At one point, the training officer threatens Jordan with rape in an attempt to break her.

Scott admits that at times he took filmic license. He asked his military advisers – some of them former SEALs themselves – what methods they would use in training if free of policy constraints and political correctness.

"I asked them how would you really like to train these people for real conditions, pressure and battle conditions," Scott said. "So some things are classical in the film and one or two things cross the line really into areas that they probably would like to go into or have visited before and found to be too stringent."

"I'm not saying SEAL training is easy, but in certain aspects it probably doesn't go as far as we wanted to go," Scott knew that his latest heroine would be able to handle anything.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Artists' Colony

By HENI J. GLEY

At one table, the conversation centered on the definition of beauty, with frequent diversions onto chess strategy when someone at the neighboring table made the wrong move. A few feet away, at the bar, an aspiring writer explained what he was trying to convey in his latest work, while his companions told him where he hadn't quite succeeded.

The conversations were intense, at times rather heated, but not enough to break the concentration of the man in the corner sketching the scene at the bar.

The proprietor fitted between tables, offering a comment or a plate of tapas or a beer when it seemed appropriate.

In Spain, such gathering places are common, says Carmel Zelikovich, who, with her husband Eran, is trying to recreate that atmosphere at the Smadar Tapas Bar which they opened recently at the Smadar Theater in Jerusalem's German Colony neighborhood. Such places are where Spanish art developed and flourished, says Zelikovich, adding that she thinks Jerusalem sorely needs a space for informal artistic interchange.

The theater, Jerusalem's oldest functioning cinema, is an appropriate venue, its old Jerusalem charm and recent renovations combining to give it a comfortable, welcoming feel.

The Smadar, built by the Templars in 1928 and frequented by British troops during the Mandate period, was renovated and reopened last summer by Shani Films Ltd. Unlike its other theaters, located in malls in the Tel Aviv area, Shani wanted its Lev Smadar theater to be a neighborhood theater that would supplement the offerings of bigger cinemas showing more commercial movies.

Zelikovich dislikes labels, making it clear that the Smadar Tapas Bar is not a restaurant, cafe, coffeehouse or bar, but is simply a quiet, informal place where people can discuss and create art while enjoying simple, inexpensive Spanish food.

She excitedly points at one of the half-dozen wood tables scattered in the theater's foyer, where a young writer has spent several hours sitting and typing away on a laptop computer. At the other end of the enclosed courtyard is a large tree, which is growing through a hole in the ceiling and serves as a notice board. Every few days, a poet comes by and tucks up his latest work amid the flyers announcing events.

Though the customers usually are people in their twenties, the clientele includes people of all ages who, on their way into the movie house, are tempted by the platters of tapas displayed at the end of the bar.

All this food is the kind we ate in my house, my grandmother's house, and my grandmother's mother's house, explains Zelikovich, who grew up in Venezuela eating the Spanish food her family has loved for generations, both before and after moving to South America.

In addition to soups, salad, platters and cakes, Zelikovich and her assistants prepare a variety of tapas, the Spanish equivalent of meze.

The tapas include eggplant slices, fried and then marinated in vinegar, breaded croquettes, fried balls of milk and flour flavored with onions, tuna, olives, peppers or cheese. There are also colorful miniature skewers of vegetables and cheeses. Examples of the tapas menu are on display behind a window at the bar, and Zelikovich is eager to explain what each item is.

For now, only vegetarian food is being served, though Zelikovich emphasizes that she doesn't want the tapas bar to be called vegetarian. She has just eliminated meat from the menu to avoid the problems of kosher, and has not been able to find high-quality fish in Jerusalem.

The final menu, prices and hours of the tapas bar are not yet set. For now, the hours are dictated by the movie schedule and the crowd. Zelikovich generally closes the kitchen at midnight, but if people are hungry after viewing a late-night film, she'll keep serving food. The Smadar Tapas Bar is open Monday to Thursday from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m., or whenever everyone decides to leave, on Friday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. There also is a happy hour on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., when drinks from the bar are discounted 25 percent.

The Smadar Tapas Bar, 4 Lloyd George, Jerusalem.

Movies on my mind

Author Galila Ron-Feder Amit talks about her favorite films

Galila Ron-Feder Amit is such a prolific author that she has lost count of how many books she's written. Though better known for her novels for children, her fourth book for adults, *Free to Fly*, was published by Modan on the eve of Rosh Hashana.

Ron-Feder Amit, a frequent radio and TV host and guest, is currently working on two television series targeted for "the whole family." Both of these are scheduled to go on the air sometime around January.

Considering the focus of much of Ron-Feder Amit's work, it is not surprising that the five films she considers her favorites all involve an emotional process undergone by children. Though each of the movies originates in a different country – France, Italy, the US, Scotland and Yugoslavia – the issues with which each of the directors is grappling are universal.

'masks' and move closer to one another. It is a marvelous depiction of the problems of youth. Interestingly, one of the lead actors, River Phoenix, died of an overdose of drugs.



Sami Ushay

Hot tips

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv area

Theater in House Slippers presents a weekend of bargain-priced plays. Tonight's program features *Call Waiting* and *An Indifferent Male Beauty* at 8:30. *And Now for the Candies, Excuse Me for Breathing* and *The Catcher* all at 11. Shows continue tomorrow at 2, 9 and 11, and Saturday at 8:20 and 11. In the Sheinkin Street Community Center, near Gan Sheinkin. Call (03) 528-8827/9. For some of us, moving to Israel

means an end to seeing those often unsightly and pretentious "foreign" films. Not because we've outgrown them, but because we can't read the Hebrew subtitles.

Tonight, the Cinematheque presents a program to help you reclaim the art-house snob within. The fun begins at 5 p.m. with a screening of *Identification Marks: None*. This 1965 film is in Polish, but you'll understand everything, because the subtitles are in English! So are the titles for the German film *Neben der Zeit*, which follows at 6:30. Capping the evening is John Sayles's *Lone Star*. Most of this film is in English, but the plot twists are so bizarre that you may sometimes wonder. Screening starts at 9:30. The Cinematheque is at the corner of Carlebach and Ha'arba streets.

Raising the Curtain, a three-week-long dance festival, begins tonight at the Suzanne Dellal Center.

This evening's program features Ido Tadmor's *Uranus* at 7 and

works by choreographers Yossi Yungman and Sonia D'Orelean at 10:30. Also at 10:30 are Barak Marshall's intriguingly titled *Emma Goldman's Marriage* and Inbal Pinto's *Duet*. Call (03) 510-5656.

Still wondering where to find all that swell Tel Aviv nightlife you've been hearing so much about? Want to experience all of it in one night? You're in luck. Tonight, Tel Aviv After Dark and the Egged and United Tours bus companies are cohosting a nightclub tour. The club crawl starts at 9 at Planet Hollywood (86 Herbert Samuel Street, on the beachfront side of the Yaffo Hotel). A mere NIS 112 buys you transportation on Egged, admission to all the hotspots you visit and drinks. Call (03) 525-6484 for reservations.

Black Mud plays soul and rhythm & blues tonight at Camelot, 16 Sholom Aleichem Street. The show starts at 11. Call (03) 528-5222.

Tonight at 10:30, Assaf

Amdorski takes the stage at Barbi, 8 Rehov Yona Hanavi. Then at midnight, the club surrenders to G-Spot. Call (03) 517-0528.

The African Roots band entertains you and your fanned friends at the Dolphinarium. The music starts tonight at 8:30. The Dolphinarium is off the beachfront promenade, not far from the Dan Panorama Hotel.

Jerusalem

It's a busy night tonight at the Jerusalem Theater complex. Ulpian flunkies will be glad to know that the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater is presenting Mrs. Klein. The JESTers take the stage tonight at 8:30.

Also at 8:30 over in the theater's Henry Crown Symphony Hall, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra performs works by Mozart, Schumann, Leonard Bernstein and Lukas Foss, who'll also be conducting. For information on both performances, call (02) 561-0011.

The Khan Theater hosts a production of *Antigone*, Sophocles's immortal Greek tragedy, by way of Jean Anouilh, at 8:30 tonight.

It seems that no place on Earth is safe from uncredentialed intergender communication guru John Gray. C.S. Brandt leads a lecture and discussion of Gray's *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*. Tonight at 8 at the Israel Center, 10 Straus Street. Call (02) 567-0512.

Dutch dancer Eva Sandberger presents *Skin Hunger*, an evening of solo dance. Tonight at 9 at Habama, 4 Rehov Yad Harutzim.

And Points Beyond

We all know men who still act like little boys. They won't grow up. They can't grow up. They even seem to live in a world of their own. Why settle for pale imitations when you can experience the original – and take your children? Catch Peter Pan today at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Haifa Auditorium.

4. *Trainspotting*. Scotland, 1996. Directed by Danny Boyle. Based on the novel by Irvine Welsh.

This is about a group of young Scots who become addicted to drugs, as a result of their lack of values and loss of hope and ambition. Aside from being a powerful commentary on the state of the culture surrounding these kids, the film itself was so powerful that I actually felt the nausea and shakes experienced from the need for a fix. Something in the camera angles and acting gives an ultra-realistic view of the experience.

5. *When Father Was Away on Business*. Yugoslavia, 1985. Directed by Emir Kusturica.

"This movie about a man unjustly arrested by the Communists of Yugoslavia is shown from the perspective of his son. Unable to understand why his father has been arrested, the boy tries to make sense of the world around him. This is difficult for him to do, since the fate of his father rests in the hands of a few corrupt people. Showing the ills of the regime through the eyes of a child makes it seem all the more senseless."

— Ruthie Blum

1. *La Guerre Des Boutons* ("The Button War"). France, 1962. Directed by Yves Robert. "I first saw it as a child, and still enjoy watching it on video. It taught me an incredible amount about children in general, and about youth gangs in particular. Set in provincial France, this movie is about two gangs of kids at 'war' with one another. The winning group removes the buttons from the clothes of the losers. The movie not only gives a glimpse into the world of children, but serves as a parable about the world of adults as well."

2. *Cinema Paradiso*. Italy, 1990. Directed by Giuseppe Tornatore.

"This film is about a child who adores movies. Set in an Italian village, it reveals the world from the perspective of a young boy, based on his nostalgia for the movie theater in his village and for the man who operates the projector."

3. *Stand by Me*. US, 1986. Directed by Rob Reiner.

"This movie is about four 12-year-old boys who undergo an initiation into maturity through their search for a corpse. Their quest leads them to remove their

Weekender Food & Drink



Chickpea, bulgur and tomato pilaf

(Cooking Light)

A toast to the green and gold

With so many olive oils crowding the shelves, how do you know which are the best ones to buy?

By LINDA WEST ECKHARDT
& LAURA FRASER

Not long ago, the big bottle of olive oil I keep next to my stove ran dry. Evidently, I was using a lot more to cook with than I had in the past. So I turned off the pasta sauce and headed to the store.

It used to be easy to pick up olive oil at the supermarket. You had a choice: the big bottle or the little one. But now I was faced with more varieties than there were brands of shampoo — whole shelves of them. I could have early-harvest, unfiltered, organic or cold-pressed. My olive oil could be pressed with oranges, lemons or tangerines; it could be flavored with basil, garlic or Tuscan pepper. I could buy it in square, cylindrical or elegantly elongated bottles.

The shelf labels read like those you'd see at a good wine store, introducing me to a whole new olive-oil vocabulary. "Complex, with hints of grass and nuttiness," read one. "Sweet, creamy and buttery" and "big, peppery finish" read others.

And I could pay anywhere from \$3 to \$18 (NIS 14 to NIS 63) for a tiny bottle. What was I supposed to do?

I couldn't decide whether to opt for the big tin at the supermarket or the boutique bottle. Most consumers choose something in between: They don't buy the cheapest or the most expensive, settling instead on a mid-priced oil, like a blended extra-virgin in a big bottle, and then using it for everything. But that strategy may actually be giving you the least taste for your money.

Olive oil is used for two very different purposes: as a fat for cooking and as a condiment to add flavor to a dish. If you use the same mid-range oil for both purposes, you're paying too much for cooking fat and aren't getting enough flavor as a condiment. When you heat olive oil, it loses much of its taste, so it is a waste to use an extra-virgin oil that way. Besides, less-expensive "pure" grade oil is actually better to cook with because it is refined, with no olive particles at the bottom of the bottle that can burn at high heat.

But when you're using olive oil for its flavor — when tossing it with roasted vegetables or adding it to pasta, for example — a higher-priced extra-virgin oil will usually produce a much better result than a mid-priced one.

"It's worth it to splurge on a bot-

tle of really good-flavored olive oil for the intense taste," says Jesse Cool, owner and overseeing chef of a cafe in Menlo Park, California.

It is easy enough to figure out which olive oil to buy for cooking — try the cheapest of a name brand or an inexpensive blended extra-virgin oil. But how can you tell which high-quality extra-virgin oil to invest in? The best oils typically come from one location — they aren't blended by a large company, but are made on small estates with their own labels.

"A good olive oil is like wine," says Silvana LaRocca, owner of a specialty-cooking shop in Berkeley, California. "It's satisfying, mouth-filling and fragrant. As with grapes and wine, each type of olive tree from each location produces a distinctive oil."

The only way to tell which oil you will enjoy most is to try several. Some have a robust flavor that complements the area's cuisine. Others are lighter and more delicate, with complicated, fruity flavors. Richly colored green olive oils, which come from younger, greener olives, tend to be more strongly flavored and a little more bitter and peppery. More golden oils are from blacker, riper olives and will typically have a smoother, milder, more buttery taste.

Good olive oils don't leave a greasy film in your mouth, but have a clean finish. In the end, like wine, which olive oil you should buy comes down to your personal taste. A particular one may be well-made, but the flavor might not appeal to you.

Because good olive oil is intensely flavored, a little goes a long way. Instead of frying most foods, try blanching or roasting vegetables before tossing them with a little blive oil toward the end. For sauteing, use just a little oil, then add some water or broth to keep the fat content of the dish low. Even though olive oil is more healthful than saturated fats, it isn't any less fattening.

"Like any other oil, it has 130 calories per tablespoon," says Dr. Marion Nestle, professor of nutrition and food studies at New York University.

"It's a really good idea to substitute olive oil for saturated fat," Nestle says. "But good grief — in a diet in which calories are over-

consumed, you have to be careful with it just like you are with anything else."

Now, after researching all the ins and outs of olive oil, I was ready to go back to the store. First, I bought the largest, cheapest tin of pure olive oil I could find, which I decided to use for cooking. Then it was back to the deli, where I chose three bottles of extra-virgin oil the same way I would choose unfamiliar wine — by luck and instinct. I searched the labels to be sure the oils were cold-pressed and first-harvest, and got three which, it turns out, have good, distinctive flavors.

After experimenting with which one I like on pasta and which on salad, I still haven't decided which I like best. One is light and buttery; another is strong and peppery; the third is a complex combination of the two. But hey, give me time: I'm having too much fun to figure this out all at once.

SHERY VINAIGRETTE WITH CURRANTS
Serve this vinaigrette with mixed greens.

1/2 cup sherry vinegar
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup currants
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
4 garlic cloves, crushed

Combine all ingredients in a jar. Cover tightly, and shake vigorously. (Makes 1 cup.)

GREEK MEATBALLS WITH LEMON-HERB ORZO

3 1/2 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided

1 cup minced onion

1 cup Italian-seasoned bread crumbs

1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

1/2 cup chopped fresh oregano

1/2 tsp. pepper

1/2 cup water

1/2 cup grated carrot

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 kg. lean ground lamb

4 garlic cloves, minced

1 large egg, lightly beaten

lemon-herb orzo (recipe below)

Preheat oven to 220°.

Heat 1 tsp. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion, and saute 3 minutes. Combine the onion and the next 10 ingredients (onion through egg). Shape meat mixture into 30 meatballs, each with a diameter of about 4 cm. Place on a broiler pan and bake 20 minutes or until done.

Combine the lemon-herb orzo and meatballs in a large bowl. Drizzle each serving with 1/2 tsp. olive oil. (Serves 5.)

SANTA BARBARA PASTA SALAD

This salad can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week.

450 gr. package frozen baby lima beans
3 cups cooked orzo or other small pasta shapes
1 1/2 cups diced red bell pepper
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 cup chopped tomatoes
1 cup fresh corn kernels (about 3 ears)
1/2 cup minced fresh coriander
2 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
135 gr. can chopped green chilis

Cook beans in boiling water 18 minutes or until beans are tender. Drain well.

Combine beans and remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Serve at room temperature or chilled. (Serves 10.)

BASIL-PARSLEY SAUCE

This dip can be used for artichokes as an alternative to melted butter.

1 cup fat-free chicken broth
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
2 large egg yolks, lightly beaten
1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp. finely chopped lemon rind
1 garlic clove, minced

Combine broth and cornstarch in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, and cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Gradually add hot broth mixture to egg yolks; stir constantly with a whisk. Return broth mixture to pan; cook over medium-low heat 15 minutes. Pour into a bowl; stir in parsley and remaining ingredients.

Cover and chill. Serve with steamed fresh vegetables such as artichokes, carrots and potatoes, if desired. (Makes 1 1/2 cups.)

VEGETABLE PIZZA WITH FETA CHEESE

In this recipe, the vegetables are cooked in a flavorful citrus-vermouth mixture. You can, however, skip the procedure and use plain steamed or sauteed vegetables. A strong extra-virgin olive oil is a must for flavor, as it is drizzled over the pizza at the very end.

1/2 cup dry vermouth
1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
3 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 Tbsp. chopped red onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
6 black peppercorns
1 cup sliced zucchini
1 cup sliced yellow squash
1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
3 cups sliced cremini mushrooms
1/2 kg. Italian cheese-flavored pizza crust (such as Boboli)
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

Preheat oven to 190°C. Combine first 7 ingredients in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Add zucchini, squash and bell pepper; reduce heat and simmer 4 minutes. Add mushrooms; simmer 2 minutes. Drain well; discard liquid and peppercorns.

Place pizza crust on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with half of feta; top with vegetable mixture. Sprinkle with remaining feta and parsley. Bake at 190°C for 10 minutes or until thoroughly heated (cheese will not melt). Drizzle with olive oil. (Serves 6.)

LINGUINE WITH ROASTED TOMATOES AND GARLIC

1 kg. cherry tomatoes
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/2 tsp. pepper
5 large unpeeled garlic cloves
4 cups hot cooked linguine
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil

Preheat oven to 230°. Combine cherry tomatoes, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1/2 tsp. salt, pepper, and garlic in a 33 x 23 cm. baking dish; toss gently. Bake for 45 minutes or until garlic is browned, stirring occasionally. (Tomato skins will pop.)

Squeeze garlic cloves to extract garlic pulp; discard skins. Add garlic pulp to tomato mixture, stirring gently. Combine tomato mixture, remaining oil and salt, pasta, parsley and basil in a large bowl; toss gently. (Serves 4.)

GREEN BEANS WITH LEMON AND BROWNED GARLIC

1/2 cup water
1/2 kg. green beans, trimmed
2 1/2 tsp. olive oil
3 garlic cloves, minced
3 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper

Bring water to a boil in a large nonstick skillet; add beans. Cook 3 minutes; drain and set aside.

Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add garlic and beans, and saute 1 minute. Add juice, salt and pepper; saute 1 minute. (Serves 4.)

ROASTED-EGGPLANT DIP WITH FOCACCIA

1/2 kg. eggplant
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 Tbsp. sherry vinegar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. dried marjoram
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 cup finely chopped tomato
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
375 gr. package focaccia (Italian flatbread), cut in 12 wedges

Preheat oven to 220°. Place eggplant on a baking sheet; bake for 45 minutes or until tender. Cool. Peel; finely chop to measure 1 cup.

Combine oil and next 5 ingredients (oil through onion) in a medium bowl. Add eggplant, onion, tomato and parsley; stir well. Cover and chill. Serve with focaccia. (Serves 12.)

CHICKPEA, BULGUR AND TOMATO PILAF

1 cup uncooked bulgur or cracked wheat
1 cup boiling water
1 cup diced plum tomato
1 cup diagonally sliced green onions
1/2 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. hot sauce
dash of pepper
450 gr. can chickpeas, drained
3 pitot, each cut into 4 wedges

Combine bulgur and water in a large bowl. Cover and let stand 30 minutes. Add the tomato and next 9 ingredients (tomato through chickpeas); stir well. Cover and chill. Serve with pita wedges. (Serves 5.)

LEMON-HERB ORZO

5 cups hot cooked orzo (rice-shaped pasta)
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 230°.

Combine orzo and parsley in a large bowl. Drizzle with 1/2 cup olive oil. (Serves 4.)

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2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp. chopped fresh oregano
1/4 tsp. pepper

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl, and stir well. (Serves 5.)

ROSEMARY-LEMON CAKE WITH CURRANTS

1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. fresh rosemary
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup and 2 Tbsp. sugar, divided
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1/2 cup plain fat-free yogurt
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. almond extract
1 large egg
1 large egg white
2 tsp. grated lemon rind
1/4 cup currants or raisins
cooking spray
3 Tbsp. lemon juice

Preheat oven to 175°. Combine first 5 ingredients in a bowl; set aside.

Combine 1/2 cup sugar and oil in a large bowl; beat at high speed of a mixer 2 minutes. Add yogurt, extracts, egg and egg white; beat 1 minute. Add flour mixture; beat at low speed until well-blended. Fold in rind and currants.

Pour batter into a 23 cm. spring-form pan coated with cooking spray. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden and cake springs back when touched lightly in center. Remove from oven. Pierce cake with a fork. Combine remaining sugar and lemon juice; spoon over cake. Cool on a wire rack. (Serves 8.)

BRUSCHETTA POMODORO

Pomodoro is Italian for tomato.

2 cups minced plum tomato
1/2 tsp. capers
2 Tbsp. chopped kalamata olives
1 Tbsp. chopped red onion
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. balsamic vinegar

Preheat oven to 230°.

Coat a 25-cm. cast-iron skillet with 1 tsp. oil. Arrange lemon slices in a single layer in bottom of skillet.

Combine 1 tsp. olive oil, lemon rind, lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper, and 4 garlic cloves in a large bowl. Add chicken, and toss to coat. Arrange chicken in a single layer on top of lemon slices.

Combine remaining olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper with chopped rosemary, cherry tomatoes, olives and potatoes in a bowl, and toss to coat. Arrange the potatoes in a single layer on top of chicken.

Top with a rosemary sprig, if desired. Bake for 1 hour or until chicken is done. (Serves 4.)

1/2 tsp. pepper
10 slices French bread baguette, sliced diagonally 1 cm. thick, toasted

Combine all the ingredients except French bread; cover and let stand 30 minutes. Drain the tomato mixture. Top each bread slice with 1 Tbsp. of tomato mixture. (Serves 10.)

SKILLET-ROASTED LEMON CHICKEN WITH POTATOES

3 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 large lemon, sliced
1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
6 garlic cloves, minced, divided
8 skinned, boned chicken thighs, 90 gr. each
1 tsp. chopped fresh or 1/4 tsp. dried rosemary
10 cherry tomatoes
10 kalamata olives
8 small red potatoes, quartered
rosemary sprig (optional)

Preheat oven to 230°.

Coat a 25-cm. cast-iron skillet with 1 tsp. oil. Arrange lemon slices in a single layer in bottom of skillet.

Combine 1 tsp. olive oil, lemon rind, lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper, and 4 garlic cloves in a large bowl. Add chicken, and toss to coat. Arrange chicken in a single layer on top of lemon slices.

Combine remaining olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper with chopped rosemary, cherry tomatoes, olives and potatoes in a bowl, and toss to coat. Arrange the potatoes in a single layer on top of chicken.

Top with a rosemary sprig, if desired. Bake for 1 hour or until chicken is done. (Serves 4.)

Cookbook author Linda West Eckhardt lives in Ashland, Oregon. Laura Fraser is a California-based freelance writer. Copyright 1997 Creators Syndicate, Inc.)

Phyllis's Tips

The ultimate dessert topping

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Whipped cream is the ultimate dessert topping, but not everyone wants to take the time and make the effort to prepare it. And so, it is no wonder that the Americans invented products like Redi-Whip — whipped cream in a can that's ready at the press of a button.

Until now, Israelis were able to buy only a parve substitute. Now a real (dairy) whipped cream is available in Israel, imported by Ron Food, Channily can be stored for up to nine months "unrefrigerated," but should be refrigerated after use. With a specially slick top, Channily can be used to decorate ice cream, coffee, cakes and other desserts.

It is available in three tasty flavors — vanilla, strawberry and chocolate. However, consumers should be aware that it contains emulsifiers and food coloring, depending on flavor. NIS 10.95.

Pizza trends

Now that pizza purveyors have exhausted the toppings issue, they have moved on to offering a different crust. Pizza Hut introduced Cheesy Crust just a year ago, and now Dominos has countered with Pizza Pesto, regular pizza with a pesto-pizza crust. Added to the dough are basil, parsley and garlic, with a touch of Romano cheese sprinkled on the crust.

According to Marketing Manager Alan Ben-Dor, this is the first of a series of flavored crusts that the company plans to introduce in the near future. All 24 Dominos branches carry the new pizza crust, which is available with a variety of toppings. Sold only in the large size, a pesto-crust pizza costs NIS 24.90, including one extra topping.

The company also has a new Internet site (www.dominos.com).

Handmade chocolates. Israelis have always been chocolate lovers. In recent years, especially with the opening of "Vered Hagazit," the quality of Israeli "chocolate" has improved vastly. This gave impetus to chocolate industries producing handmade pralines, generally based on Belgian chocolate.

The latest of these is Genevieve Pralines, which come in assorted flavors and designs and are packaged in decorative boxes. The most popular flavor is milk chocolate with honey. They're pretty, but the best I can say is that they taste okay.

A box of 20 pralines (250 gr.) sells for NIS 50. Genevieve Pralines are available at the home of the manufacturer, Gabi Hoffmayer, (23 Dr. Eliahu St., Ramat Gan, Tel. 03-5349276), the Rafi Simieli Delis in Gan Ha'ir and Ramat Hasharon, the Stern Deli in Givatayim and at various cafes throughout the country.

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often waxed, though it is possible to find them occasionally without wax (particularly, but not only, if you buy them organic). Although I am against peeling fruits and vegetables because of the fiber and vitamin loss, I prefer peeling waxed fruit to eating the wax.

I like making my own bread, but I'm a novice and don't understand the function of certain ingredients in the recipe, so I'm afraid to vary them. What is the difference between using milk or water in a bread recipe? I also have heard that you can add potato water or beer as a liquid. What is the difference between them? What does adding an egg do?

— Carol Balin, Beersheba

Bread made with water generally will have a chewier texture than that made with milk. Milk contains protein and sugar in the form of lactose; this will help produce a more delicate texture and a deeper brown crust. Milk, potato cooking water and beer all add nutrients, calories and flavor to the bread. The yeast also interacts with them, producing a higher loaf.

Eggs add color, flavor, nutrients (including protein), more volume and a definite richness to breads like halla. In cake and

pastry baking, the coagulated egg protein helps keep the cake or pastry together.

My mother always told me to rinse ice cubes before putting them in a beverage, but never told me the reason. My friends laugh at me for doing it, but I do it anyway. Do you have an explanation for this practice?

— Moshe Tuval, Jerusalem

Your mother was right. Freezers have odors in them, no matter how clean they are, but we usually don't sense the odors because the food is cold. Ice cubes pick up freezer odors and transfer them to the beverage to which they are added. The older the ice cubes, the stronger the odors will be imbued in the cubes. Try to change your ice cubes weekly, and rinse them under cold running water right before use. Your drink will definitely taste better.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il. Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. "Feedback" also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Fridays.

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

Long-Lotz cisterns

One of the great mysteries of the Negev is the fact that in ancient times the area apparently supported a far larger population than it does today.

Was there perhaps a more temperate climate, with greater rainfall? Or were the ancients simply better at utilizing the meager water resources at their disposal? We know that the Nabateans and Byzantines were masters at water engineering, but there are remains that testify to the fact that the economical use of water existed far earlier, during the period of the Judean kings.

Among the most impressive of these remains are the Lotz Cisterns, a group of 17 such cisterns in an area two kilometers in diameter west of Mitzpe Ramon. They have remained intact for thousands of years. These cisterns, which date from the 10th century BCE, are believed to

have been built as part of King Solomon's effort to settle and defend his southern border. Today they still provide unexpected clusters of vegetation.

In contrast to most of the Negev wells, they are not oases, which receive their water from underground springs. Rather, they are true open cisterns, reservoirs for surface rainwater which is channeled into them, sometimes from a very large area.

Even the cisterns which have fallen into complete disrepair usually serve as collecting facilities to some extent. During the dry season they still show a bit of dampness and have more trees and bushes than the surrounding area. Those that have remained intact or have been reconstructed in recent times often retain water throughout the year. Some of them are often used as informal swimming pools for hikers, although one would hesitate to

vouch for the quality of the water.

The pools themselves are large holes in the ground, which have been carefully lined with stones. Part of the wall of the cistern is built to form a circular stairway going down so that those who use the cistern can gather even the last drops of water during the dry season, as well as clear away the plants growing inside. Far more ingenious are the stone-lined water channels that lead to the cisterns along the natural crevices in the ground. In the well-preserved cisterns, you can also see a settling chamber - a small indentation before the cistern itself where dirt, stones and bits of refuse, which have been carried along with the water flow, can settle.

However, much as we may admire these ancient accomplishments, we should also remember that we use water far more wantonly than our ancestors. While cisterns such as these could provide us with sufficient drinking water (assuming we were satisfied with its purity) and perhaps enough for limited irrigation, it would hardly be enough for all our washing needs, not to mention water to supply flush toilets. All we can do is have a swim and admire the ingenuity of past generations.

To get to the Lotz Cisterns, take the road going west from the Horot Junction (road number 171), just north of Mitzpe Ramon. Or drive south on the border road from Nitzana (described in an earlier column). The cisterns are spread out on

both sides of the road, and many of them are identified by signs.

Just remember that although this part of the Negev may be a desert, it is about 950 meters above sea level, so it can get very cold on some winter days and bitterly cold at night.

Weekender Travel



This cistern near Mitzpe Ramon is believed to have been built by King Solomon to settle and defend his southern border.

On a Limb

By Sybil Ehrlich

Donkey's years back in time



A different way to see the Negev

What could be more relaxing than a leisurely donkey ride in the wilds of the western Negev? Ofer Haruv of Be'erotayim Tours, based at Ezuz, runs various activities, includ-

ing overnight donkey trips.

The tiny community of Ezuz, about 12 km. south of Nitzana on the Egyptian border, is so remote it is not connected to the national electricity grid or water system. The eight families living there have an electricity generator and draw their water from wells. The nearest grocery store is 20 km. away, and fruit and vegetables have to be bought in Beersheba.

Egged reaches no closer than Nitzana, and even that only twice a day.

There are only three civilians among what seem like 200 passengers on the early afternoon bus from Beersheba to the numerous army camps in this remote desert area. We reach the end of the line. The other two passengers are new Russian immigrants who have ended up at the Nitzana ulpan, which must be a tremendous culture shock!

I start walking towards Ezuz. The area is rich in remains of the Turkish railway line built in 1916 in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to reach the Suez Canal during World War I. The British-built road from Nitzana to Ezuz runs along the railway embankment. I am relieved to see I am

heading in the right direction when I see, visible for a considerable distance across the flat desert landscape, the large stone water tower which is all that remains of the Nitzana (Uja el-Hafir) station.

Haruv picks me up in his jeep and deposits me at the entrance to Ezuz, where I meet the rest of the group - a family of five. Usually the groups are larger; the day before, there had been 80 participants.

THE PROGRAM begins mid-afternoon as we are introduced to our donkeys and climb aboard for a leisurely ride through the stony, arid landscape. Some of our mounts have minds of their own and attempt to snatch a mouthful of sparse foliage by the side of the track or even wander off, but we are soon organized and on our way. Fannies needn't worry - a donkey can carry up to 250 kg.

The area is virtually devoid of human settlement today, but 2,000 years ago this was a densely populated area. It is thought that the north-western Negev supported a population of 85,000. The Nabateans built terraces to conserve every drop of water, and agriculture flour-

ished. Nitzana, like Petra in Jordan, was an important station on the spice route.

We pass a large rectangular stone structure, reminiscent of Solomon's Pools south of Bethlehem. Our guide tells us it is a Nabatean reservoir. How did they prevent evaporation in this desert heat? One theory is that a thin layer of olive oil was spread over the water. A small opening below the wall of the reservoir could have been used for drawing off water.

We reach the area where we are to spend the night. Our donkeys, all females, are led into a large pen. Our sleeping quarters are straw bays, with mattresses provided (participants bring their own sleeping bags). Somewhat surprisingly, there are real flush toilets and hot showers - in straw huts in the middle of the desert.

After a Beduin-style dinner and some stargazing, there is nothing to do but watch the huge moon rising and look at the stars, visible in such profusion that I find it impossible to identify any constellations.

The next morning we are up at 6. After

a glass of sweet tea, it's back to headquarters. We are warned that the donkeys will be frisky, as they are hungry and on their way home. But by now we are experienced riders, and I feel I could go on like this forever.

A delicious breakfast, including locally made cheeses, is served in a stone structure that was built as a water tank for the Turkish locomotives.

Since we are such a small group, we can all fit into one jeep for a tour of the desert. We climb a mound of rocks, from which there is a superb view of the barren terrain. Haruv shows us carved rock drawings depicting animals, which are at least 14,000 years old. Other carvings are more recent, inscriptions in an early form of Arabic script. Haruv and his colleagues will not publicize the exact location of these rock drawings for fear they will be overrun by visitors and destroyed.

The limestone rocks indicate that this area was once under the sea. Fossils abound here, and we are shown one of the most extraordinary natural wonders I have ever seen - a fossilized coral reef. Like its surroundings, it is completely

white, some four meters long and about 35 centimeters high. Finger-like projections point in all directions. Again, this is something whose exact location remains a secret. The previous group of 80 participants was not privileged to see such a sight for obvious practical reasons.

A large cave provides evidence of wildlife in the area: owl pellets, porcupine quills, a hyena bone. Of living creatures, we see nothing larger than a shiny black beetle, especially adapted to the desert conditions, with longer legs than its northern cousins to raise it half a centimeter above ground, where its body is cooler.

We drive along the unfenced border between Israel and Egypt. Haruv points out that this is Israel's most peaceful border, but peace is a mixed blessing. Influxes of tourists, and the consequent development of infrastructure, will destroy the fragile balance of nature in the region.

I feel privileged to have seen it before it is too late.

Be'erotayim Tours, tel. (07) 655-5788, 655-7865; fax (07) 655-4369. The tour described in this article costs NIS 275, all inclusive.

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For more information

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Bridge

A safer line of play

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

France defeats USA in Final

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ A 6 5 3
♥ A K 7
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ 9 6

West East
♠ K 8 7 ♠ 4
♥ Q 8 4 3 ♥ 10 9 6 2
♦ K 7 ♦ A 9 5
♣ 8 5 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 7 3

South
♠ Q J 10 9 2
♥ J 5
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ A K

South West North East
1 ♠ pass 2 NT pass
3 ♠ pass 4 ♠ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♦K and ♣2

The world bridge team championships ended last Saturday in Tunisia with victories for France and the US in the main events. France defeated the US in the final of the Bermuda Bowl by a score of 328 imps to 301. In the Venice Cup (restricted to women), the US defeated China by a score of 249 to 184. There were 160 deals played in the Bermuda Bowl and 128 deals in the Venice Cup.

The winning French team included Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Christian Mari, Herve Mouiel, Frank Multon, and Michel Perron. Five of these players were also on the winning French team last year in the World Olympiad. The US women's team was captained by Sue Picus and included Lisa Berkowitz, Mildred Breed, Marisela Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Monton and Tobi Sokolow. This was a completely different team from last year's US team that won the Women's Team Olympiad (also defeating China in the final). To reach the final of the Venice Cup, the US women's team defeated another US team in the semifinal, while China defeated France. In the Bermuda Bowl, France defeated Norway in the semifinal, while the US defeated another US team as well in the semifinal.

Today's deal comes from the semifinal of the Bermuda Bowl, in which the two US teams battled for a spot in the final. The teams were called USA1 and USA2.

All championship team matches are played at two tables (per match). Two pairs from each team play

against each other, one pair sitting North-South at one table, while their teammates sit East-West at the other table. Both tables play the same deals, so a simple comparison of scores is made after the match, and the difference in scores on each deal is converted to a scoring method known as "imps," which stands for "international match points."

Usually, you can win or lose 1 to 14 imps per deal (sometimes more on very high scores). These score differences are known as "swings." On today's deal, the swing was 10 imps when USA2 scored 420 in a four-spade contract at one table, while USA1 went down one (-50) at the other table.

The 470 points won by USA2 translated to 10 imps.

The reason four spades made at one table but went down at the other was due to the opening lead. The more aggressive opening lead allowed the contract to make, while the passive lead defeated the contract. The bidding in the diagram shows how North raised spades artificially with a jump to two notrump. This bidding convention is known as "Jacoby 2NT." South's rebid of three spades promised extra values, but no outside singleton and North settled for game. At one table, West led the aggressive king of diamonds.

He was hoping his partner had the queen or ace and that he could score a third-round ruff in diamonds. He was right, but the lead backfired in a subtle way. The king of diamonds won the first trick and a diamond was led to East's ace. Now a third round of diamonds was led and West ruffed it.

After taking the first three tricks, West led a club at trick four and South won in hand and led the queen of spades for a finesse. West played low, but South played low from dummy and the queen won the trick. Now declarer had the rest.

At the other table, West led a club on opening lead. Although declarer could now have made 11 tricks by finessing in spades, he was not looking at all four hands. Declarer took a theoretically safer line of play. He cashed the ace of spades and led a second round of spades. Declarer was afraid that if he took a losing finesse in spades, East would win the king and shift to diamonds to score the ace, king and a diamond ruff. Declarer's play of ace and a spade was an attempt to stop this from happening. But the opposite occurred. When West won the second round of spades with the king, he was able to shift to the king of diamonds and defeat the contract.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@nvision.net.il

Chess

A surprise attack

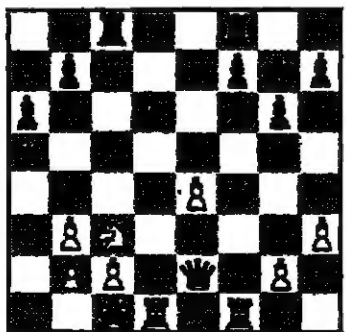
By NIGEL SHORT

There are two important psychological observations to make about the following game which strongly influences the eventual destination of the top prize in Novgorod this year. Firstly, I had noticed that my opponent Vladimir Kramnik has a tendency to coast home when he has amassed a number of early victories. Out of respect and fear, few players are prepared to seriously press the world's No. 2 in the latter stages of an event. I therefore resolved to do exactly that for this game, imagining that Kramnik would not be totally prepared for a fierce fight.

The second factor was that I was highly motivated for this particular encounter. In the first half of the event I succumbed to the amiable young Russian in fairly disappointing style. In the car, on the way back to the hotel, I was told by the tournament director, "Thank you, Nigel, for giving me such positive emotions...for losing to my good friend Vlodya." While I consider it perfectly reasonable for a groupie, for example, to express such opinion, I was less than happy that the person in charge of the event felt at liberty to do likewise.

White: Short
Black: Kramnik
Novgorod, 1997
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. b3! "Zugzwang!" exclaimed an amused Topalov afterwards, jokingly implying that black has no reasonable reply. Kasparov also liked his idea as it forced my opponent away from this narrow but exceedingly well analyzed repertoire. After a substantial think he answered 6...g6 7. Be3 Bg7 8. Bc4 0-0 9. Bb3. White has obtained a modest but satisfactory line against the Sicilian Dragon. 9...Na5. The best response is 9...Nxd4 10. Bxd4 b5! with an

even game. 10. Qd2 Bd7 11. Bb6 Rf8 12. Bxg7 Kxg7 13. Qd3. To halt b5 and to discourage a knight incursion on c4. 13...a6 14. f4 e5! 15. Nde2 Qb6 16. 0-0-0 Bb5. Black has played energetically and well and has almost solved his opening difficulties albeit after consuming a vast amount of time. If now 17. Nxb5 Qxb5 leaves the white e-pawn very vulnerable. 17. Qf3 Bxe2 18. Qxe2 Nxb3+ 19. axb3 exd4 20. Rxf1 Qa5?



Kramnik accompanied this poor move with a draw offer. It would have been better to play the obvious 20...Nh5 when after 21. Rf3 Rf8 22. Qd2 Re6 23. Nd5 Qd8 (23...Qc5? 24. Rc3) 24. Nxd4 the game is about equal. 21. Rxf1 Qa1+ 22. Nb1. The black queen only appears actively placed on this square, in fact she is far from the defense of her king and a potential target herself. 22...Nd7! 22...Rc6? 23. e5 dxe5? 24. Rall is a good illustration of the pitfalls that await black. 23. Rxd6 Nc5 24. Qa3 a5? The final mistake. Black had to try 24...Qa2 which, while not exactly impressive, at least disturbs the white coordination. 25. e5! b5 otherwise Rd5 and Ra4 26. Rb4 Kxg6 26...b5 27. Rxb5 27. Rd5 Nc6 28. Qh6 threatening mate. Black makes a desperate sacrifice 28...Rxc2+ 29. Kxc2 Rf8+ 30. Nc3 and black resigns.

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On a journey with Schenkelbach

By DAVID BRAUNER

"What is the genesis of the photographic art process?" asks veteran Israeli photographer Erwin Schenkelbach rhetorically. Narrowing his eyes, he answers: "That is the core question that interests us. For me, it's that I feel something. I don't even see the picture right away. First, I feel it. I feel a sense of excitement, something in me that begins to gel."

In his photography, Schenkelbach seeks to see "fantastic things," capture them and draw them out in order to show others what he has seen. The viewer thus becomes the other half of the artist's world.

"The artist succeeds when he makes the viewer his co-traveler on an exciting journey full of ambushes through the land of light, shadow and silence," says Schenkelbach.

He likens the feeling he experiences when he's about to take a picture to an encounter with the Gate to the Fourth Dimension. "I stand in some specific place and time, and ask myself what is it here that gives me this feeling. Why here? I don't see anything. I

look around, ask questions, look for answers. I know that here is the gate, and my camera is the key to open it."

Schenkelbach uses the term "Fourth Dimension" to describe the artist's imagination.

"I believe imagination stems from reality. It cannot come from nothing. I believe that if an artist creates a picture, painting or piece of writing, however strange, the reality has to exist - even if it is unseen - in another, parallel realm somewhere along the time-space continuum."

Erwin arrived in Israel in the early '60s. Since then, he has exhibited in 13 solo shows, here and abroad. The *British Journal of Photography*, in a rare break with its tradition of publishing only British-born photographers, ran a Schenkelbach spread in 1980 which featured young IDF soldiers.

The Israel Museum has purchased his work for its permanent collection.

ERWIN SCHENKELBACH absorbed his unique philosophy of photography from his father Berthold. In the small Polish town of Drohobycz in Galicia, 800 km

On Camera



south of Warsaw, Schenkelbach was reared in "an atmosphere of the gate, the chemicals, the magic of photography."

While studying engineering in Italy, Berthold Schenkelbach became an accomplished photographer of portraits and landscapes. He practiced the rare bromoil technique, which Schenkelbach describes as a "painful process" that turned prints into a form of oil painting.

In 1935-6, Berthold submitted his work to the prestigious international competition in Warsaw. His pictures won all three top prizes: the gold, silver and bronze medals, making him a sensation, particularly in the Jewish press. Sadly, all of the senior Schenkelbach's photographs and negatives were lost during the Holocaust.

Apart from his purely artistic activity, Schenkelbach also derives much satisfaction from his freelance press work for local and foreign publications. And, for the past 12 years, he has been the official portrait photographer for the Mishkenot Sha'ananim International Cultural Center. He has amassed over 500 images of world-renowned artists, scien-



cut, turned up in a frivolous, curly wig which was not only a different color, but framed her face differently and gave her added height. Even her best friends failed to recognize her when she said hello, and she had a wonderful night observing people's amazement when they realized who she was.

Last week, at another religious function, I was greeted by three women whose voices were familiar, but whom I couldn't quite



(Above) "One Step to Infinity" (Erwin Schenkelbach); (far left) Portrait of the Dalai Lama, 1994 (Erwin Schenkelbach); (center) Erwin Schenkelbach (David Brauner)

tists, writers and other intellectuals, including many Nobel Prize laureates.

In his portraiture, Schenkelbach attempts (though he admits that he doesn't always succeed) to penetrate the exterior, to discover "the dark side of the person, like the dark side of the moon."

"Photography is curiosity," he states, "asking what's happening on the other side."

The portrait photographer, believes Schenkelbach, has to break down the barriers between himself and his subjects, "so much so that they forget that you are there to photograph them. They become your partners in the photograph."

He recalls how in his IDF series his camera revealed soldiers who were not the idealized "gods of war" that other photographers showed, but rather "young men who did not want to be there, to wear uniforms, or to have to kill."

Schenkelbach confines his artistic oeuvre to black and white. He stresses that the fewer elements a picture contains, the more impact it has. "Impact is everything, and either a picture makes an impact or it doesn't. The artistic photographer must learn to throw away everything that is not essential."

His pictures are experimental in approach, subject matter and composition. Of the last, the artist says, "Before you can break the accepted rules of composition, you first have to know and practice for years the classic principles of composition."

Summing up his philosophy of art and photography, Schenkelbach quotes his spiritual mentor, the artist Max Ernst, from his autobiography: "I am a very lucky man, because I never found myself."

To which Schenkelbach adds, "Because when an artist finds himself, his art dies."

mileage. Some synthetic wigs are so well made that they only have to be shaken a little and patted or gently brushed and they look perfect, which saves a lot on hair-dressing expenses. Whereas a hat should suit the rest of your outfit, this is seldom a consideration when it comes to wigs. So long as the wig suits your complexion and your facial structure, you don't have to worry about whether it will harmonize with your clothes.

But best of all is what it does for preserving your youth. Even a gray or a white wig, because of the quantity of hair it contains, usually looks better than one's own hair. The majority of naturally gray- and white-haired women who wear wigs usually opt for color and it's remarkable how much younger they look as a result. In fact, it's sometimes a shock to see what they look like when they remove the wig.

Many wigs today - even the inexpensive variety - are so authentic looking that they fool just about everyone. This is a particular boon for women who are losing their own hair. The wig hides the results of the fall-out and is a morale booster when you look in the mirror.

Probably the best thing about a wig is its convenience. It takes only a few seconds to put on and adjust. It saves time and money at the beauty parlor. It's there for any unexpected social occasion, and it keeps you looking good.



مركز التحصيل

Likud rallies behind Sharon

MKs: No need for minister to resign; Begin keeps quiet

By SARAH HONIG
and LIAT COLLINS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon won wide support yesterday from Likud colleagues, a day after a Tel Aviv court rejected his libel suit and found he had misled the late prime minister Menachem Begin in the Lebanon War.

Again it seemed, as in the past,

that the more Sharon finds himself under attack, the more his popularity rises in his party.

The Likud issued an official statement "lending its full backing to Ariel Sharon and strengthening his hand."

"Sharon's contributions to this nation's security and development are enormous and he deserves our full support," it said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was also supportive of Sharon. "Arik Sharon deserves our support and our gratitude for what he did for this nation's defense and growth," he said.

MK Uzi Landau said he knows "Arik for many years and I trust what he says. The government knew more about the conduct of the Lebanon War than it knew

during any other war."

MK Gideon Ezra summed up popular party sentiment in arguing that "the Lebanon War took place years ago. Arik Sharon is essential for Israel's security today, now at present."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi thinks that "Sharon must stay in the government. His service and his influence in the government are essential to

our success."

MK Ze'ev Begin, whose testimony to the Tel Aviv district court was crucial in felling Sharon's suit, remained silent.

Knesset legal advisor Zvi Inbar said in response to a query from MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) that according to the Basic Law: The Government, a prime minister must step down for "a crime of moral turpitude," but not a

minister.

Cohen argued that given the ruling against Sharon, in a democracy, "it is not fitting that such a person hold a public office like that of minister."

The law says that a minister can be thrown out but only by a vote of 70 MKs, and it would seem unlikely that such a sum could be mustered against Sharon.

Berman: Sharon misled all of us

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon misled former prime minister Menachem Begin and his cabinet regarding the war in Lebanon, Yitzhak Berman, who served as Begin's energy minister, said yesterday.

The cabinet never discussed the strategy of the Lebanon War after it began in June 1982, said Berman, who testified at Sharon's libel suit against Ha'aretz journalist Uzi Benziman. "Four times Sharon said at the first cabinet meeting that the goal was to reach only 40 kilometers into Lebanon," said Berman.

In reaction to Sharon's demand to expose the cabinet's secret protocols about the war, Berman said, "As a cabinet minister I saw those protocols, and they are in keeping with my testimony."

Berman resigned three months later, in protest at then defense minister Sharon's repeatedly misleading the cabinet, he said.

"We never discussed the final goals or the strategy of the war. I resigned when I realized we were already in Beirut and had no idea where to go from there. Israeli troops remained in Lebanon three more years, suffering 650 casualties. Had we stayed within the 40-kilometer limit we had been told of there would have been many less."

Three days after the war began, said Berman, "I reached the conclusion that the cabinet was not receiving accurate or correct briefings. We suddenly got a request to approve a certain move, and then another and another. Why weren't we informed in advance?"

At one point Berman said he asked Sharon, "What conquest will you ask us to approve the day after

tomorrow, to defend the place you conquer tomorrow, on the basis of our decision today?"

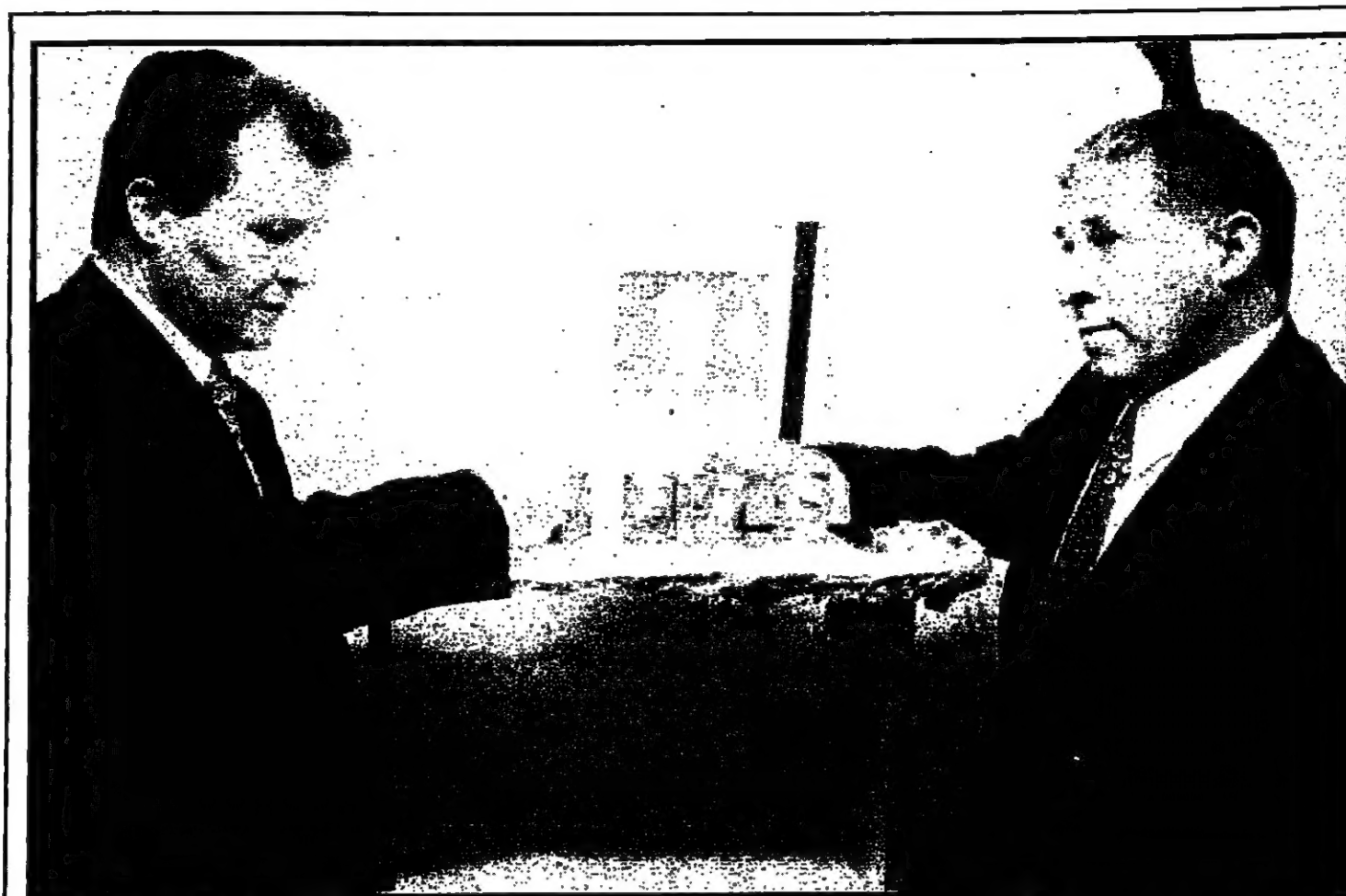
Despite Berman's demands for a cabinet debate on the war's goals, one was never held. "At first they spoke of penetrating only 40 kilometers into Lebanon. Later ministers David Levy and Ze'ev Hammer joined my demands, but to no avail."

Then, he said, "We suddenly found that our forces were in the Beirut airport... although there had never been a cabinet decision to enter Beirut."

After that, he continued, "We took the Beirut-Damascus road, also with no cabinet decision. Then we entered east Beirut, again with no prior decision, and there were several other things." Berman recalled a special cabinet meeting Begin called to discuss Sharon's proposal to enter the Shi'ite Hizbullah quarter south-west of Beirut.

"Sharon said the Shi'ites, who were then friendly towards us, would greet the IDF troops with white flags and there was no fear of casualties," Berman said. "He assured us there were no PLO terrorists who would cause a military confrontation. But by then the ministers didn't believe him so much and some of them asked why the head of military intelligence didn't come to confirm there were no PLO or Syrian troops there."

The meeting was put off until the next day, Berman said, when then OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Yehoshua Saguy came and exclaimed, "What do you mean, the place is swarming with terrorists! There's bound to be an extremely severe clash." Begin announced he was removing the proposal from the agenda and closed the meeting. "But Sharon continued to surprise the cabinet, Berman said.



Rabin memorial

Labor whip MK Ra'anan Cohen (right) and Likud whip MK Meir Sheetrit together light memorial candles for Yitzhak Rabin in the Labor faction room at the Knesset yesterday. The two spoke of the needs for national reconciliation and to refrain from incitement.

Forecast: Partly cloudy, temperature lower than average.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Weather
Amsterdam	05 41	rain
Berlin	04 38	rain
Buenos Aires	15 28	cloudy
Calcutta	22 34	rain
Chicago	02 38	rain
Copenhagen	02 38	rain
Frankfurt	04 38	rain
Geneva	07 42	rain
Helsinki	-15 09	cloudy
Hong Kong	19 86	rain
London	11 57	rain
Los Angeles	13 55	rain
Madrid	13 55	rain
Moscow	-06 21	cloudy
Mumbai	28 82	rain
New York	18 64	rain
Paris	13 55	rain
Rome	15 58	rain
Stockholm	-08 18	cloudy
Sydney	18 64	rain
Tel Aviv	14 57	rain
Toronto	02 36	rain
Vienna	08 47	rain
Zurich	05 37	rain

Winning cards

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the 9 of hearts, the ten of diamonds and the nine of clubs.

In the second drawing, the winning numbers were the jack of spades, the 7 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the ten of clubs.

Likud body ducks primaries issue

By SARAH HONIG

After seven hours of deliberations yesterday, the Likud's chair failed to decide on whether to allow the Knesset primaries issue to be brought up at the party convention, which begins on Sunday.

The drawn-out proceedings ended with a cryptic statement which none of the sides knew how to interpret. The court declared that "the convention's agenda can be determined by the delegates." This is largely seen as an attempt by the court not to get drawn into the controversy.

The proposals to the convention would mean the abolition of the Likud's primaries and the election of Knesset candidates by the 2,700-member central committee or by a forum of 10,000 electors, instead of by the 200,000 rank-and-file members.

Bill separates military, criminal investigations

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset this week passed a bill which would separate military investigations from criminal investigations or incidents. This means that evidence presented to the military investigation would remain classified and could not be used against a person in a criminal trial. The bill had the support of Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) who said its importance lies in allowing those involved to give full evidence, which could be used to help prevent a repeat incident, without fear that it would be used against them.

Neeman asked to rethink child allowances

The Labor and Social Affairs Committee, headed by Maxim Levy (Geshet), is calling on Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to reconsider the proposal in the budget which would affect child allowances. Yossi Tamir told the committee that 500,000 families now receive

child benefits. If the payments are transferred to employers, as the Treasury suggests, not all will receive them, he said.

NRA, SPNI protest Beit Jann bill

The Nature Reserves Authority and Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel are protesting a bill by Salah Tarif (Labor), which passed preliminary reading yesterday, which would allow Beit Jann residents to use their land in the Mount Meron Nature Reserve in any way they like. The bill would also allow them to open a road in the reserve. The bill follows a longstanding and often violent dispute between the residents and the NRA.

Bill would freeze Trans-Israel Highway

Thirty MKs from all parties have signed a bill calling for the

Trans-Israel Highway project to be frozen. The bill was initiated by Landau, who is calling on National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Neeman, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to halt work on the project until the bill has been discussed. He called the project "megamorphic" and said the country would pay a heavy financial and environmental price for a road which would not solve the country's transport problems.

Bill aimed at auto theft

A bill by Rafi Elul (Labor) aimed at fighting car thefts passed preliminary reading yesterday. The bill calls for more supervision of spare parts dealers and for particularly sensitive parts to be marked with an identifying code. Elul said the trade in stolen parts costs the state NIS 1.5 billion a year. The number of stolen vehicles is expected to reach more than 45,000 this year.

Elon favors abolishing religious councils

Following a discussion in the Interior Committee yesterday,

Benny Elon (Molodet) is calling for the abolition of religious councils. "Shas and the National Religious Party should come to their senses and abolish the current system of religious councils," said Elon, who also said the councils should not be composed along the lines of political parties. "A party's gains from the appointments are not worth the real harm to the image of the provision of religious services," he said.

'Goodwill forum' established

A resolution by Rafi Edri (Labor) calling for a "goodwill forum" to be established to act to heal societal divisions passed yesterday. MKs from opposition and coalition parties have signed up for the forum which is expected to hold its first meeting after the memorial day for Yitzhak Rabin next week.

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Monday
Dec. 8

MEET THE MEDIA

"Power without responsibility." We'll find out whether Stanley Baldwin's accusation is correct when we meet them all - Moshe Fogel, the Government Press Officer, Conny Muna of the Foreign Press Association and visit The Jerusalem Post, Ma'ariv, Galei Zahal and the TV studios. A full day of enlightenment with time for questions and maybe answers. Not to be missed. NIS 210 including lunch.

Tour escorts: P. Rothstein

Monday
Dec. 15

"IN DEPTH" IN HAIFA

Israel's power-house city is more than that as we'll show you. We'll visit the Persian Gardens at the Bahai Temple, the loveliest in the country, then the Temples area on the Carmel, settled in 1887, Beit Hagafen, the Jewish-Arab cultural center and the Technion, founded in 1924. We'll visit M.I.M., Israel's largest industrial park, home to over 30 hi-tech companies. We'll see Haifa port and harbor and sail in Haifa Bay, visit Stella Maris, the cave of Elijah, the Carmelite Monastery and much more. NIS 230 including lunch.

Tour guide: Lior Shorer

Sunday
Dec. 21

DISCOVER THE GREEN LINE

For many it's just a line on the map, but in the not too distant future it will be the main cause of confrontation. Come and speak to "green line residents" in Hashmonaim, Kiriat Sefer, Lapid, Maccabim, Modi'in, and Neve Shalom. If you are interested in Israel's future then don't miss this tour. NIS 210 including lunch.

Tour guide: Hilarion Avit Ben-Hur

Sunday
Jan. 11

RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN

Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 200 including lunch.

Tour guides: Gabi Mazor Head of Archeological Authority, Beit Shean.

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all four tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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SHORASHIM, P.O. Box 7588, 14 Rehov Abuhanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

The Director-General's Office

Notice Regarding Financial Assistance in 1998

Further to our previous notice, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption announces that applications may be submitted for financial assistance from the 1998 budget, by public institutions working in immigrant absorption in the following fields: employment, science, art, sports, education and extra-curricular activities, culture and tradition, religion, welfare, and work with population sectors with special problems.

The estimated total 1998 budget for financial assistance is NIS 8 million.

Assistance will be granted, in accordance with Ministry criteria, as published in Yalut Pirsumim, copy available at our head office (see below).

Institutions which meet these criteria, wishing to apply for financial support, should submit an application, with all the documents requested, not later than November 20, 1997, by 4 p.m., to one of the following:

Coordinator of the Assistance Committee at Head Office:
Mrs. Nava Sarig, Tel. 02-6752772

Regional coordinators:

Eilat Segal	Jerusalem Region	02-6241121
Haviva Greenberg	Haifa Region	04-6681316
Anat Elkouby	Central Region	09-7424599
Dalia Chemo	Southern and Beersheva Region	07-6280617
	Tel Aviv Region	03-5221264/167
		03-8647966
		03-9671782

Requests submitted not in compliance with the correct procedure, or submitted after the above date, will not be considered.

مركز الترحيل